Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007067	**Version:** 6 **Date Amended:** 09/Jul/2026

1. Module Title
Intoxicants and Intoxication

2a. Module Leader
Mollie Etheridge

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	**Module Code**	**Module Name**	**Condition**
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) Sociology; BA (Hons) Criminology; BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology; BA (Hons) Criminology and Policing; BA (Hons) Politics; BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Intoxicants and intoxication will introduce you to the sociological analysis of the place of intoxicants, and the role of intoxication, and how this has changed over time. It incorporates a broad range of themes: production and distribution; regulation, control and the law; substance use, misuse and addiction; gender and intoxication; and socio-economic changes in the place of intoxicants in societies (e.g. work, time and alcohol use). You will gain an understanding of the broad historical and cultural differences in the meanings ascribed to intoxicants and intoxication. You will develop analytical skills in identifying how substances, who consumes them, and the place/time they are consumed change, and that they are shifting targets of problematisation in society. Substances you will study may include alcohol, cannabis, opiates, New Psychoactive Substances and MDMA. You will gain an insight into how one phenomenon, that of intoxicants and intoxication, can act as an observational lens through which a wide range of sociological issues can be examined, including gender, age, social class, disorder, offending and regulation.

Key transferrable skills for employability that you will gain in this module include critical thinking, planning and organising, prioritising, initiative and resilience.

6b. Outline Content

- Social history of alcohol as a social problem
- Addiction
- Opiates – comparative study of use and regulation
- Polysubstance (mis)use in the Night Time Economy
- Constructions of gender
- Regulation of substances – shifting targets for reform
- Intoxication, work and drug testing
- Racism in drug policy and law

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Appraise the social and political contexts, practices and problems that have arisen around distinctive intoxicants and their use
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Examine the problematisation of intoxication among different groups in society
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a comparative knowledge of intoxicants over time and in a range of contexts
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Defend a theoretically informed position on the regulation of an intoxicant

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	11	1-4	1 x 1hr weekly lecture
Other teacher managed learning	11	1-4	1 x 1hr weekly seminar
Student managed learning	128	1-4	Scholarly activity, other reading, independent peer discussion, preparation for assessment tasks
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Essay - 2,500 words					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]