

Module code: MOD009103	Version: 1 Date Amended: 15/Dec/2022
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1. Module Title
From Workhouses to Universal Credit: The Past, Present and Future of the British Welfare State

2a. Module Leader
Joseph Harley

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

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

3a. Level
6

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) History, BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations, BA (Hons) Sociology		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

In this interdisciplinary module, you will learn about the evolution of the British welfare state from a social, cultural and political perspective over some five centuries of history (c. 1601-present). We will consider how authorities have approached the 'problem' of poverty and used various forms of assistance to help people in need, from workhouses, to pillories and whipping, to the NHS, old age pensions and universal credit.

We consider changes in welfare from multiple perspectives to include policymakers, social reformers, paupers, the sick and the unemployed. Through this, we ask: has our treatment of the needy become more or less compassionate over time? To what extent is today's society fair or repeating the same mistakes of previous generations? What is the future of the welfare state?

6b. Outline Content

- What is welfare?
- The Poor Laws (c. 1601-1945).
- Liberal Welfare Reforms (1906-1914).
- The birth of the 'modern' welfare state (1945 onwards).
- Today's welfare state and its future.
- Politics of welfare.
- Social and cultural impact of welfare on the needy.
- Types of welfare (medical, unemployment benefits, pensions etc).

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	Explain what welfare is and how it was used by authorities from c. 1601 to present day.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically engage with and evaluate continuities and changes in welfare.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate critical analysis skills using a wide range of primary and secondary sources.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Be able to produce work aimed at specialised and non-specialised audiences using coherent and well-written prose.

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	12	1-4	Lecture 1 hr x 12 weeks
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	Seminar 1 hr x 12 weeks
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Student managed learning, seminar preparation and assignment writing and research.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Blog 750 words					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-4	70 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Policy Report 2000 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]