Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD009616	**Version:** 1 **Date Amended:** 18/Dec/2023

1. Module Title
Critical Social Thought: Knowledge, Power and Division

2a. Module Leader
David Skinner

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:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Building on work you have done at Level 4, this Level 5 module examines ways of thinking about the social that are 'critical' in that they, in a variety of ways, challenge or decentre taken-for-granted assumptions and structures. In doing so it will consider the ways in which knowledge of the social world is itself political.

The module will show you how social theory can be both challenging and useful. The module is organised around four themes:

- Bourdieu and beyond: knowledge, culture, and the reproduction of inequalities
- Intersectional approaches to social divisions
- Humanity 2.0? Self, embodiment, and enhancement
- Reassembling the social: encompassing non-human actors

You will develop your understanding and confidence of theories through close reading of primary texts. In the latter stages of the module, you will have opportunities to apply the concepts and approaches we have learnt to real world issues in a series of theory mapping workshops.

6b. Outline Content

- What is theory for? What is critical theory?
- Public Sociology
- Culture and the reproduction of inequalities
- Positions and intersections
- Self, embodiment, and identity
- Sociotechnical systems
- New materialism and posthumanism

Indicative theory mapping workshops:

- Theorising the contemporary university
- Theorising the rise of the new life sciences
- Theorising the climate catastrophe

6c. Key Texts/Literature
The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

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	Understand and use a range of concepts and perspectives from critical social theory.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Appreciate the purpose and implications of using critical theories.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply theories to specific social contexts and issues.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate the capacity to read, debate and evaluate primary theoretical texts.

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	7	1-3	1 hour per week (weeks 1-7).
Other teacher managed learning	15	1-4	One hour reading seminar per week (weeks 1-7). Two-hour theory mapping workshop per week (weeks 8-11).
Student managed learning	128	1-4	Includes formative assessment (draft theory map)
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, 2, 4	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Critical review of selected book extract or journal article (1,000 words)					
Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
011	Coursework	1-4	60 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
A theory map and commentary (equivalent to 1,500 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]