

Module code: MOD009617	Version: 1 Date Amended: 18/Dec/2023
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1. Module Title
Digital Methods

2a. Module Leader
Andrea Kocsis

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

Discover the potential of digital methods in gaining insights into contemporary societies and cultures with this optional module. It aims to equip you with advanced digital tools and methodologies and strongly emphasises developing valuable employability skills that are in demand across various industries. Practical application is at the core of the module, ensuring you can effectively tackle real-world social challenges. You don't need prior coding experience; we provide step-by-step guidance into digital methods, like data wrangling, text analysis, or machine learning. The course strikes a balance between theory and hands-on practice, allowing you to grasp the concepts and apply them effectively. Whether you're considering a future in academia or a career in industry, this module offers a gateway to a world of opportunities in the digital age. Digital methods are highly sought after, and this is your opportunity to master them while acquiring skills employers value.

6b. Outline Content

Topics for this module may include:

- Understanding and working with data
- Textual analysis and distant reading methods
- Networks and social network analysis
- Classification and machine learning
- Mapping and GIS
- Agent-Based Modelling and simulations
- Computer vision and distant viewing

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Software to explore:

- OpenRefine
- Orange
- NetLogo
- ArcGIS
- Gephi
- Weka

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	Develop a solid understanding of working with diverse datasets, including techniques for data preparation and analysis.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Cultivate adaptability and confidence in using diverse software, a skill applicable to various contexts within social research and beyond.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop analytical thinking skills to interpret and derive insights from data using computational methods.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Hone problem-solving skills by tackling challenges related to data manipulation and analysis using software tools.

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	22	1-4	2 hours for 11 weeks, consisting of both lectures and workshops.
Other teacher managed learning	0	N/A	N/A
Student managed learning	128	1-4	Self-led work to practice the use of various pieces of software, apply learnt theories in practice through exercises, and prepare the portfolio assignment.
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	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
A 3,000 word portfolio assignment consisting of diverse exercises related to the digital methods covered during the term, to be submitted at the end of term.					

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]
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