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| <b>Module code:</b> MOD009736 | <b>Version:</b> 1 <b>Date Amended:</b> 18/Dec/2023 |
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| <b>1. Module Title</b>                  |
| Contemporary Issues in Work and Society |

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| <b>2a. Module Leader</b> |
| Chris Land               |

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| <b>2b. School</b>                        |
| School of Humanities and Social Sciences |

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| <b>2c. Faculty</b>                                         |
| Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences |

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| <b>3a. Level</b> |
| 5                |

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|------------------------|
| <b>3b. Module Type</b> |
| Standard (fine graded) |

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| <b>4a. Credits</b> |
| 15                 |

|                        |
|------------------------|
| <b>4b. Study Hours</b> |
| 150                    |

|                                                    |                    |                    |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>5. Restrictions</b>                             |                    |                    |                  |
| <b>Type</b>                                        | <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Name</b> | <b>Condition</b> |
| Pre-requisites:                                    | None               |                    |                  |
| Co-requisites:                                     | None               |                    |                  |
| Exclusions:                                        | None               |                    |                  |
| <b>Courses to which this module is restricted:</b> |                    |                    |                  |

## LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

### 6a. Module Description

Contemporary workplaces are increasingly complex: workers' roles are multifaceted and often difficult to define. As a result, supporting, developing, and managing people at work is becoming more demanding. This module addresses this challenging context by considering work as consisting of the dynamics between people, work and society, and will encourage you to be critical by exploring theories and workplace practices through the lens of sociology and social psychology.

This module will explore the nature of work and society and will draw on theories associated with the nature of work, organisation, and management to locate the changing nature of work in an historical, social and cultural context. There will be an historical and critical review of schools of thought and key writers in social sciences. The module will encourage you to think about issues associated with class, gender, ethnicity and identity and how these are linked to the notion of 'work'. You will be able to explore what 'work' means; why do people work; and what are the different types of work that occur. The module will focus on issues of industrialisation, deindustrialisation, notions of career and identity and places and spaces of work. A major part of this module is the discussion of innovative and new ways of looking at work through the lens of sociology and social psychology.

You will be encouraged to explore sociological ways of seeing work and organisations and understanding the relationship between work, organisations, and society more generally. As the module will focus on the wider context of work and take into account the societal challenges associated with changing patterns of work, you will be prepared for the new realities of work. This includes working practices such as distributed, networked organizations and non-standard employment contracts, remote and hybrid working as well as more conventional organizational work practices.

### 6b. Outline Content

The outline delivery will cover specific topics associated with the world of 'work' and draw on both sociological and social-psychological perspectives.

The outline delivery is based on the structure of the main textbook, taking the chapters as a guide, and linking to the key reading per week.

- Work in Context: What is Work?
- Work in an Historical Context
- Theories of Work
- Classical Approaches to Work
- Contemporary Theories of Work
- Social Divisions and Identity at Work
- Class and Conflict
- Gender and Patriarchy
- Race and Ethnicity and Labour Markets: Recruitment and the Politics of Exclusion
- Working Technology and Post-Fordist Manufacturing
- The Service Sector and the Knowledge Economy
- Revisiting The Meaning of Work (and life)
- Globalization and Work

### 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                                 | Explain key concepts and theoretical approaches within the psychology and sociology of work, both in domestic and global contexts.                                                                                                                                    |
| 2                                          | Knowledge and Understanding                                 | Evaluate different sociological, psychological and anthropological arguments to the understanding of work and society internationally.                                                                                                                                |
| 3                                          | Knowledge and Understanding                                 | Communicate theories of work and society persuasively using relevant academic literature and case studies.                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4                                          | Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills | Work independently to identify, select and analyse information from a variety of academic and professional sources Be part of a community of learning and gain key transferable skills; i.e. accepting responsibility; being resilient; planning and organising time. |

| 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                                                | 24    | 1-4               | 2 hours x 12 weeks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Other teacher managed learning                          | 12    | 1-4               | 1 hour seminar x 12 weeks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Student managed learning                                | 114   | 1-4               | The student managed learning will be supported by case studies and current academic research provided to the students through the use of the online VLE. Advice regarding assignment completion will also be provided to students through video guidance. |
| TOTAL:                                                  | 150   |                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| 9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                   |                   |               |                         |                     |
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| Assessment No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Assessment Method | Learning Outcomes | Weighting (%) | Fine Grade or Pass/Fail | Qualifying Mark (%) |
| 010                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Practical         | 1, 4              | 25 (%)        | Fine Grade              | 30 (%)              |
| 500 word summary in visual format (e.g. a collage/poster)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                   |                   |               |                         |                     |
| Assessment No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Assessment Method | Learning Outcomes | Weighting (%) | Fine Grade or Pass/Fail | Qualifying Mark (%) |
| 011                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Coursework        | 2, 3              | 75 (%)        | Fine Grade              | 30 (%)              |
| Report 2,500 words. Drawing on one of the topics covered in this module, use relevant theoretical literature, and empirical case studies, to discuss and evaluate how the world of work is changing, and how this impacts on employee perceptions of their workplace and future job roles (students would then be able to draw on any of the themes (identity, well-being) to discuss and evaluate the impact work is having on individuals/society.                                                                                                                                 |                   |                   |               |                         |                     |
| <p>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*).</p> <p>In addition, students are required to:</p> <p>(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above</p> <p>(b) pass any pass/fail elements</p> <p>[* 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]</p> |                   |                   |               |                         |                     |