1. KentVision Code and title of the module

BUSN9004: Problem Structuring Approaches for Operational Research

## Division which will be responsible for management of the module

Kent Business School

## The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)

Level 7

## The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

15 credits (7.5 ECTs)

## Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)

Autumn, Spring or Summer

## Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any module restrictions

None

## The course(s) of study to which the module contributes

Compulsory to the following courses: MSc Business Analytics (HDA)

## The intended subject specific learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

8.1 Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the origin and development of soft OR and the main ways that it differs from hard OR

8.2 Understand and be able to systematically apply basic systems concepts

8.3 Use several soft OR methods, including soft systems methodology in a knowledgeable although not expert manner

8.4 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the strengths and weakness of the methods and know when it is appropriate to use them

8.5 Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of how methods can be combined together effectively

## The intended generic learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

9.1 Tackle unstructured and complex problem situations

9.2 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms.

## A synopsis of the curriculum

This module introduces soft operations research to students and motivates the study with the Glaize simulation case history. It also introduces systems thinking with basic system concepts such as influence diagrams. The topics covered include strategic choice approach, soft systems methodology, cognitive mapping/SODA and multimethodology.

## Reading list

## The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

## The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

## Contact Hours

Private Study: 128

Contact Hours: 22

Total: 150

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

Examination, 2 hours (70%)

Individual Report (1500-2000 words) (30%).

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment Instrument: 100% Exam

## Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)

**Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Private Study** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| *Lecture* | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  |
| *Seminar* | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |

**Module learning outcomes against assessment methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Examination* | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| *Individual Report* | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |

## Inclusive module design

The Division recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

## Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered

Canterbury

## Internationalisation

The curriculum in this module is globally applicable. Both the subject specific and generic learning outcomes are also globally applicable.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Module record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

| Date approved | New/Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of (revised) version | Section revised  (if applicable) | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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