# KentVision Code and title of the module

SACO7000 Research Methods for the Social Sciences

# Division and School/Department or partner institution responsible for the module

Division of Human and Social Sciences, School of Anthropology and Conservation

# The level of the module

Level 7

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

20 credits (10 ECTS)

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

Autumn or Spring

# Delivery of the module

* 1. **Mode of study**

In person

* 1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury

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

None

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

* 1. **The module is compulsory for the following courses**

MSc Conservation Science and pathways

MSc Ethnobotany

* 1. **The module is optional for the following courses**

None

* 1. **Also available as an elective module.**

# A synopsis of the curriculum

This module covers a diversity of methods and design issues that inform social science allied research. The aim of this module is to ensure competency in the main social science research approaches, methods and survey instruments so that students can reflect critically on how different methods are implemented within a range of interdisciplinary contexts. The module will begin with a broad overview of social science approaches to research, highlighting contrasts between realist, critical realist and constructionist philosophies, differences with standard natural science techniques, ethics, and the qualitative-quantitative divide. Subsequent sessions will introduce individual methods such as participant observation, qualitative interviewing, questionnaire surveys, focus groups, collection of life histories and narrative material. Topics will also include processing and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. Specific training in the design and use of a range of research instruments will be provided. Towards the end of the module, we will examine the principles of integrated research design and mixed-methods approaches. The approaches covered within this module will feed directly into preparation and implementation of social science methods for research dissertation projects.

# Contact Hours

Private Study: 117 hours

Contact Hours: 33 hours

Total: 200 hours

# Learning and teaching methods

This module will be delivered by a combination of lectures, seminars and sessions in a computer laboratory.

# The intended subject specific learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

* 1. Demonstrate critical awareness of different research paradigms, including different strategies and designs for quantitative and qualitative approaches, including a systematic understanding of the relative merits of each and their use in relevant contexts;
  2. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of methodological issues in social science, including ethics, researcher subjectivity, response biases, triangulation and sampling, and mixed-methods approaches;
  3. Demonstrate a practical understanding of a range of specific data collection methods such as participant observation, qualitative interviewing, focus groups, collection of life histories and questionnaires used in the social sciences
  4. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the principles of analysis and presentation of qualitative data (through textual narrative, the use of quotations, coding and contingency tables) and quantitative data (through descriptive statistics);
  5. Present analysed data within the framework of a formal report.

# The intended generic learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

* 1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of how social science aspects of research projects need to be designed, analysed and reported.
  2. Present a written report containing balanced arguments supported by quantitative and qualitative evidence.
  3. Acquire key transferable skills through written communication of social science methods.

# Assessment Strategy

* 1. **Main assessment methods**

Empirical report 1 (1800 words) 40%

Empirical report 2 (2200 words) 60%

* 1. **How the assessment methods outlined above fit with the course assessment strategy?**

Reports assess the knowledge of how to conceive and conduct social science mini-research projects, applying appropriate methods and analyses to answer significant questions. Both assignments will allow students an opportunity to test out potential data collection methods for their final dissertation research projects. The first assignment is shorter and weighted lower to allow for progression through the module and for students to learn from the feedback they receive.

**14.3 Reassessment methods**

Like for like

# Mapping of Learning Outcomes

Map of module learning outcomes (sections 12 & 13) to learning and teaching methods (section 11) and methods of assessment (section 14).

* 1. **Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods**

| **Module learning outcome** | 12.1 | 12.2 | 12.3 | 12.4 | 12.5 | 13.1 | 13.2 | 13.3 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Private Study** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **X** |
| Lectures | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |
| Seminars | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** |  |  |
| Computer Lab |  |  |  | **x** |  | **x** |  |  |

* 1. **Module learning outcomes against assessment methods**

| **Module learning outcome** | 12.1 | 12.2 | 12.3 | 12.4 | 12.5 | 13.1 | 13.2 | 13.3 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Empirical report 1 | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Empirical report 2 | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |

# 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).

# 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

**MODULE RECORD**

**All revisions for this module are recorded in the table below for student and staff information.**

| **Date approved** | **New/ Material/ Major/ Minor revision** | **Start date of delivery of this version** | **Applies to new cohorts and/ or existing students (for revised modules)** | **Sections revised (if applicable)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 22.09.23 | New | Sept 2024 | New | n/a |
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