

Module Title	Sociotechnical and Soft Systems	School	Mathematics and Computer Science				On or Off-Campus	On	
Module Co-ordinator	Jenny Coady / Rob Pooley	SCQF Level	9	Module Code	F29SS	Semester	2	Credits	15

1. Pre-requisites	None		
2. Linked Modules (specify if synoptic)			
3. Excluded Modules			
4. Replacement Module	Code:	5. Availability as an Elective	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Date Of Replacement:		
6. Degrees for which this is a core module	Mandatory module for BSc Information Systems		
7. Aims			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The module aims to give students the opportunity to develop an understanding and an ability to apply Checkland and Wilson's Soft Systems Methodology (SSM) ◆ They will be introduced to systems thinking as a means of analysing the whole context of an information system ◆ The use of techniques such as rich pictures and other diagrammatical notations will be used to allow analysis to incorporate all stakeholders ◆ Students will learn to adopt a critical approach of evaluating socio-technical systems based on an understanding of their role as a reflective practitioner ◆ To examine the underlying frameworks ◆ To understand the issues that arise when characterising problems ◆ Practical use of these skills will be developed through exercises based on case studies. 		
8. Syllabus			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The problem situation unstructured ◆ The problem situation expressed ◆ Root definitions of relevant systems ◆ Making and testing conceptual models ◆ Comparing conceptual models with reality ◆ Identify feasible and desirable changes ◆ Action to improve the problem situation Systems thinking ◆ Socio-technical systems methods ◆ Modelling frameworks and issues ◆ People centred solutions ◆ Checkland's theories and thinking 		

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9. Learning Outcomes (HWU Core Skills: Employability and Professional Career Readiness)

Subject Mastery	<p>Understanding, Knowledge and Cognitive Skills Scholarship, Enquiry and Research (Research-Informed Learning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Students will develop skills in the following areas: ◆ Critically analyse system problems from a holistic perspective. Understand and evaluate the theory behind systems thinking and Checkland's theories ◆ Analysing problems using systems thinking ◆ Critically evaluate socio-technical systems methodologies ◆ Compare and contrast the frameworks and methods used within the field ◆ Propose and reflect on solutions to problems. ◆ Determine the effectiveness of conceptual models in capturing reality ◆ Examine the rise of people centred solutions in the modern organisation
Personal Abilities	<p>Industrial, Commercial & Professional Practice Autonomy, Accountability & Working with Others Communication, Numeracy & ICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Students will develop skills in the following areas: ◆ Identify stakeholders and their interests in solving a problem and evaluating methods and frameworks for solving problems ◆ Employ a range of modelling techniques to capture and communicate key aspects of a system ◆ Inform and guide the solution of problems within and improvements to systems ◆ Understanding the people / cultural aspects of the Information Systems field ◆ Ability to use directed reading, and critically evaluate articles and develop learning through case studies ◆ Report writing and demonstrating argument development ◆ Use of VLE as a means of learning, contributing and discussing

10. Assessment Methods

Method	Duration of Exam (if applicable)	Weighting (%)	Synoptic modules?
Exam	2 hours	50%	
Coursework		50%	

11. Re-assessment Methods

Method	Duration of Exam (if applicable)
Exam	2 hours

12. Date and Version

Date of Proposal	5 September 2007	Date of Approval by School Committee	December 2007	Date of Implementation	September 2008	Version Number	1
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