

SOCIOLOGY

LEVEL 4 – 1ST YEAR UNDERGRADUATE

Module information	Semester	Credit
<p>Culture, Media & Society</p> <p>Module Description: This module aims to provide you with an introduction to sociological perspectives on media and culture and their relationship to social, political and economic life. It looks at the importance of understanding media and culture and will enable you to think critically about the relationship between media, culture and identities in contemporary society. CMS gives you an introduction into key sociological debates on media and culture and how they relate to contemporary everyday life using contemporary examples for discussion. Upon completion of the module you will have a better understanding of the relationship between media, culture and the construction of social and individual identities in contemporary society.</p> <p>Module content: The module will cover topics such as: Theories on Media and Popular Culture; Everyday Media, Politics and Ideology; Communication and Technology and Cultural Practices; Global Infrastructures and National Identities; Representations of Children and Young People; Gendered Media the Construction of Masculinity(ies); Reality TV and Transformations of the Self; Representation of Older Age; Consumer Culture and Media in Late-modern Society; Media, Branding and Advertising; and Social Networks.</p> <p>Assessment: Report 40%; Essay 60%</p>	Autumn	20
<p>Sociology, Capitalism and Modernity</p> <p>Module Description: This module will focus on sociological theories engaged with the emergence and development of capitalism and modernity. All of the thinkers addressed in this module in one way or another are concerned with, or influential in, establishing sociology as a discipline, understanding the development and consequences of capitalism, and understanding the development and consequences of modernity. The module will help students to develop a grounding in the ideas and thinkers who shaped the discipline. These will be picked up in various ways throughout the rest of their degrees.</p> <p>Module content: Impact of modern division of labour; Classical theories of social inequalities; Classical theories of social class; Classical theories of capitalism; Classical theories of modernity; Sociological method; Impact of capitalism and modernity on identity and vice versa; Impact of capitalism and modernity on gender and vice versa; Impact of capitalism and modernity on race/ethnicity and vice versa; Resistance to capitalism; Classical theories of developmental processes; and Theoretical models of sociology.</p> <p>Assessment: Group wiki project 20%; Essay 80%</p>	Autumn	20
<p>Global Capitalism & Everyday Life</p> <p>Module Description: This module aims to introduce students to contemporary sociological theory and debates around the contested concept of globalisation. The module aims to explore the characteristics of contemporary globalisation, consider the implications and consequences for different groups, and reflect on the tension between the global and the local (or the relationship between global social systems and localised everyday life). The module focuses on debates around the globalisation</p>	Spring	20

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<p>of economic activity, culture and identity and implications for political participation and citizenship.</p> <p>Module content: Cultural homogenisation or cultural heterogeneity? (Ritzer, G. versus Robertson, R.); Economic globalisation and the rise of global production networks; The anti-globalisation movement and social protest (Klein, Sklair); Global Politics: the decline of the nation-state?; Institutions of global governance the WTO, IMF and WorldBank (Stiglitz); Global Poverty and inequality; Sex tourism; and Crime and global drug production and consumption.</p> <p>Assessment: Presentation 70%; Essay 30%</p>		
<p>Mind, Self and Culture</p> <p>Module Description: What is 'Culture'? There are many answers to this question, which might refer to forms of behaviour, to the cultural heritage of a group of people, to belief systems, or to art and literature. This module focusses on how psychologists investigate culture, and on how it shapes (and is shaped by) mind, self and consciousness. We will also draw on approaches from related disciplines - sociology, philosophy, comparative theology, and anthropology. Themes explored on the module include; myths and legends, ritual and tradition, collective memory, sacred spaces, 'virtual worlds', and language, signs and symbols. You will also be introduced to a number of techniques used to investigate culture and its meanings, including participant observation, interpretation, reflexivity and 'auto-ethnography'.</p> <p>Module content: What is culture? – culture as 'belief', 'behaviour', or 'collection of artefacts', Culture and power, Culture or Cultur(es)?; Psychoanalytic accounts – Freud and the Frankfurt School on culture and civilisation; Cultural-Historical Psychology – psychological activity and symbols. 'Cultural fossils': the origins of mind; Cross-cultural and indigenous psychologies – 'WEIRD' people and 'cultural imperialism'; Ethnography – 'insiders' and 'outsiders', emic/etic, 'thick description' and reflexivity; Collective memory, remembrance and testimonial: Guatemala case-study; Myths, legends and 'rites of passage' – the history of the 'Graduation' ceremony; Culture, place and space. Sacred spaces, utopias, 'soft cities' and 'psychogeography'; Orientalism – imagining the 'East'. (Post) colonial anthropologies and geographies; Exploring 'virtual worlds' – 'netography' as a research strategy, ethnographic explorations of virtual networks, lives and identities; Language, mind and culture. 'Sapir-Whorf': the hypothesis that never was. Language and 'thought worlds'; and Discourse: 'interpretative repertoires'. The limits of discourse: 'here be monsters'. Ideology and 'interpellation' or 'hailing.</p> <p>Assessment: Essay 100%</p>	Spring	20
<p>Researching Society</p> <p>Module Description: The overall aim of this module is to provide understanding of both epistemological and methodological aspects of research process. In accordance with this core aim, the module is divided into two main parts. The first part of the module introduces students to fundamental epistemological questions for the social and socio-psychological sciences. It will specifically look at a number of problematic distinctions within research process, such as: scientific versus ordinary knowledge; and theory versus empirical data. The question of the precise relationship between quantitative measurement and the scientific method will be explicitly investigated. In addition to this, the module will address practical issues related to different stages of research project design. The second part of the module will focus on discussing key methods and techniques used in social scientific research, such as ethnographic method, semiotic and discourse analyses, and causal analysis. This review of methods will include issues related to handling quantitative data, such as correlation and causation and statistical significance. Using case studies as examples the workshops will go through limitations and advantages of different research methods.</p>	Spring	20

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<p>Module content: Basic epistemological problems in social sciences, including the quantitative/qualitative distinction. How theory and practice are connected in social science research. The demarcation problem between scientific and common sense knowledge. The role of measurement and statistical analysis in the sciences. The place and function of metaphor in epistemology of social sciences. Opposition between apriorism and empiricism. Deconstructing the "standard" research design model: conceptualisation, operationalisation, collecting, handling and analyzing quantitative data. Definition of method. Different types of methods' classification. Ethnographic method. Participant / nonparticipant observation, ethnographic interview. Limitations of ethnographic methods. Classical causal analyses. Variables types. Different understandings of correlation, statistical significance and the normal distribution. Sample types and sample design. Semiotic and Discourse analysis. From concepts to operational definitions. Methodological frameworks: from data gathering to data processing. Making sense of patterns in statistical data. The art and science of interpretation and the social-scientific imagination. Presenting research outputs.</p> <p>Assessment: Essay 50%; Case study 50%</p>		
<p>Urban Identities</p> <p>Module Description: This module introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of the study of space, the city, and urban identities from the perspective of sociology, cultural and human geography, politics and social psychology. It explores the key elements and factors that distinguish the social and cultural characteristics of urban space and discusses the development of new forms of urbanisation in relation to debates about postmodernism and globalisation.</p> <p>Module content: Conceptualising space in sociological terms; The sociology of space and the city of Georg Simmel (specifically focusing on his discussions of "the stranger", "the flâneur", "Space boundaries", and "social interaction in space"); The distinction between space and place in Sociology; the Sociology of Space by Henri Lefebvre; Social construction of space and place (using Goffman's "frameworks"); Walter Benjamin: Phantasmagoria, Flaneurie and Paris, City of Modernity; American Sociology of the City: Chicago School; Postmodern cities and global cities (Urry/ Mobilities Research); Exploring urban identities: visual urbanism and cultural/human geography; Globalisation, migrations and identities in the city; and Diasporic identities, homemaking, and belonging in the city.</p> <p>Assessment: Essay 100%</p>	Spring	20

LEVEL 5 – 2ND YEAR UNDERGRADUATE

Some modules will have pre-requisite requirements which you must meet before study commences. It is important that you pay particular attention to this to ensure that you have the necessary level of study to take these modules.

Module information	Semester	Credit
<p>Inequality of Class and Culture</p> <p>Module Description: This module examines the role of political and economic power in the creation of social class divisions, it examines the role of culture, education and the state in maintaining and entrenching class divisions. The module also examines how class inequalities can be experienced in terms of health, culture and the body. The module examines the significance of recent social, economic and political changes on recent debates about social class and the individual's experience of class.</p> <p>Module content: Marx, Weber, Bourdieu, Savage, Devine, Crompton, Bottero. Social Class, inequality, the role of the state, social mobility, inequality in education, health inequalities, the body as a site for the expression of class inequalities, the Underclass, social class and its cultural expressions. A ruling class, relations of economic and political power.</p> <p>Assessment: Assignment 60%; Exam 40%</p>	Autumn	20
<p>Sociology of Gender & Feminist Perspectives</p> <p>Module Description: This module aims to introduce students to major topics and areas of debate in the sociology of gender. This will be achieved by considering feminist theories and theories of gender as well as by looking at key issues and debates around gender and work such as gender at work and family and work. The particular focus will be on gender in contemporary postindustrial societies and explore the empirical and theoretical interconnections between gender, sexuality, 'race' and class. Students will also be applying their knowledge of gender and diversity to the workplace by undertaking a collaborative organisation based project. Upon completion of the module you will have an understanding of the significance of gender in the social construction of knowledge and of different theoretical positions.</p> <p>Module content: The module will cover topics such as: The Social Construction of Gender; Masculinities and Femininities; Gender, Intimacy and Family; Gender and Work; Gender and Class; Gender and the Body; Gender and Technology; Gender, "Race" and Ethnicity; Feminist Perspectives; Gender and Sexuality; Performing and Transforming Gender; and Applying gender analysis to the workplace.</p> <p>Assessment: Portfolio 50%; Essay 50%</p>	Autumn	20
<p>Modern Social Theory</p> <p>Module Description: This module explores classical and contemporary social theory. It will cover some important classical modern theorists such as Marx and Weber and then show how these theories have been developed by social theorists in the 20th and 21st century. This aims to equip students with the required analytical skills with which they can explore and explain, through appropriate frameworks, how the modern world is made up of a complex interaction of structure and agency.</p> <p>Module content: Will comprise of classical and contemporary theory, for example, Marx's historical materialism and neo and western Marxists optimism/ adaptations and pessimism for revolution. Postmodernism and a rejection of modern grand narratives and their teleology's. New developments in modern social theory will include notions such as autonomism and crack capitalism (Holloway, 2010), The rebirth of history (Badiou, 2012). Connections between Weber and McDonaldization.</p>	Autumn	20

Giddens and Bauman's reflexive modernization and liquid modernity, respectively. Bourdieu's theory of practice, and Edward Said's orientalism. Assessment: Essay 100%		
Sociology of Health & Illness Module Description: This module introduces students to a major specialism in Sociology, and explores the relevance of the 'sociological imagination' for an understanding of patterns and experiences of health and illness, as well as issues in health care and health policy. Module content: The sociological imagination and health, illness and health care. The social model of health – sick societies? Inequalities in health. The global context of health. The lay perspective: lay knowledge; health and illness behaviour; the experience of illness and disability; the 'expert patient'. Sociological perspectives on mental illness and death, dying and bereavement. The sociology of the body. Policies for health: refocusing upstream? Sociological perspectives on medicine and health promotion; the social relations of health care work; the nature of carework. Health and health care in the 21st century: 'wicked problems', governance for health and the place of sociology. Assessment: Coursework 70%; Essay 30%	Spring	20
Digital Societies Module Description: This module will encourage students to explore and critically engage with the impact of digital technologies on social life, identity, politics and other areas of contemporary life. They will develop an understanding of, and assess, contemporary theories and studies which have sought to explain changes brought about by the increasing integration of the digital with everyday life. Module content: Digital capitalism; Digital Health –self-tracking, health data, health Monitoring; Digital surveillance –GCHQ, Snowden, Sousveillance etc.; Digital Labour/work - Free Labour; Digital identities and relationships; Digital methods; Digital leisure/culture –Podcasts, Selfies, Blogging, Video Games; Digital politics – Anonymous, Hacking, Clicktivism, Information politics, Electronic frontiers foundation, California Ideology; Network societies - Digital divides, digital inequalities, Platform society. Assessment: Video project 30%; Essay 70%	Spring	20
Exploring Social Research Module Description: This module builds on the L4 module, Researching Society, by providing a deeper insight into and training in a variety of social research methods. It first considers the impact of values, politics and ethics on sociological research before moving on to examine a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods through in-depth examinations of specific pieces of sociological research. The module provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to critically evaluate the arguments and findings of existing research, carry out individual research, and to prepare and present a written research proposal. Module content: The module will cover topics such as: Research ethics; Values, politics and power in the research process; Reflexivity in the research process; Interviewing; Ethnography; Content Analysis; Virtual research methods; Working with theory; Sources of quantitative data, e.g. official statistics; Working with quantitative data; and Sampling. Assessment: Critical review 35%; Research proposal 65%	Spring	20
Protest & Social Movements	Spring	20

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<p>Module Description: This module aims to equip students with both classical and contemporary theories of social movements, political protests, and episodes of collective action. It will therefore explore and analyse empirical events using a range of theories, including but not limited to collective behaviour, resource mobilization, political process and new social movement theories. Using a range of empirical examples we will look at why, when, and how social movements and political mobilizations take place in societies.</p> <p>Module content: Collective behaviour; Resource mobilization theory; Political process and contentious politics; New social movement theory; Bourdieusian approaches to social movements; Ideology and social movements; The alternative globalization movement; Student protests and students as significant political actors; The UK urban riots, 1980s, 2001, and 2011; and The Occupy Movement.</p> <p>Assessment: Critical case study 100%</p>		
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LEVEL 6 – FINAL YEAR UNDERGRADUATE

Some modules will have pre-requisite requirements which you must meet before study commences. It is important that you pay particular attention to this to ensure that you have the necessary level of study to take these modules.

Module information	Semester	Credit
<p>Contemporary Society & Social Futures</p> <p>Module Description: This module aims to encourage you to critically interrogate current social theory regarding the key features and characteristics of contemporary societies and their meaning and consequences. We want you to examine whether key social theories and models adequately describe contemporary societies or enhance our understanding of ongoing processes of social change. Indeed, thinking about the nature of change (social, economic, technological, political, and cultural) and how we can conceptualise it, is a key feature of the module.</p> <p>Module content: Post-Fordism or Post-industrialism? Or neither?; Informationalization, Networks & the 'Knowledge Society'; Globalization; Risk Society & Reflexive Modernity; Surveillance Society & the Audit Explosion; Cybertheory and Cyberculture; Postmodernism & Popular Culture; Migration; Consumption and Waste; and Tourism.</p> <p>Assessment: Critical Reflection 40%; Essay 60%</p>	Autumn	20
<p>Biosocieties</p> <p>Module Description: This module will critically examine the intersection between science, technology, human biology and health in contemporary societies. It will assess the ways in which methods of technical assessment have shaped how bodies and health are understood by investigating how the development of new technologies and disciplines such as genetics, neuroscience and digital tracking have shaped health practices, treatments, identities and the governing of populations. The module will focus particularly on technologies which have intersected with the experience and understanding of our bodies (including medical, assistive and digital technologies) and explore the ways in which they have constrained and enabled social relations, identities, group formations and political activities. Students will also be addressing the ways in which science and technology both shape and are shaped by social structures and processes.</p> <p>Module content: Technology, modernity and identity; Theories of science, technologies and bodies; Psychology and the constitution of the self; Genetics, genes and biological essentialism; The mind/neuroscience; Quantified self, self-tracking and digital health; "Fitter, happier, more productive": technologies and health at work; Assistive technologies and disability; Technologies of gender; and Imaging the body: popular, scientific and medical images of the body.</p> <p>Assessment: Blog post 30%; Essay 70%</p>	Autumn	20
<p>Sexuality, Society & Feminist Theory</p> <p>Module Description: The module aims to introduce students to a theoretical analysis of the significance of sexuality to contemporary society through a detailed exploration of historical and contemporary sites of struggle over sexual practices. Sexuality and sexual practices are considered an important social construct in contemporary society and will be explored critically from an interdisciplinary social scientific perspective.</p> <p>Module content: The module will cover topics such as: The social construction of sexuality; Victorian Sexuality and moral purity; Foucault, Discourse and Sexualisation; The Sexual Revolution?; Race and sexuality; Disability and sexuality; Sex Work and</p>	Spring	20

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<p>Trafficking; Sexual Health and STIs; From Gay Liberation to Queer Politics; and Cross-dressing and Transgender.</p> <p>Assessment: Essay 50%; Report 50%</p>		
<p>The Sociology of Work and Organisations</p> <p>Module Description: The module aims to develop an understanding of the nature of work and organisations in the contemporary global economy. The module aims to help students develop the critical skills needed to understand key theoretical debates regarding new organisational and work-management techniques, new and emerging forms of labour and employment, and the complex and changing relationship between production, consumption and identity in an increasingly globalised economy.</p> <p>Module content: Marx’s theory of alienation and related labour process debates around skill trends; Weber’s notion of bureaucracy and new organisational forms and strategies; Castell’s theory of the ‘Network firm’, the new international division of labour and the rise of global production networks; Feminist (Crompton, Walby) and post-feminist (Hakim) debates around the (changing) gender division of labour and work-life balance; Analysis of the rise and consequences of the post-industrial service or knowledge economy; Fordism and post-Fordism; Debates around the rise of the ‘flexible firm’ and core-peripheral workforces; Identity and meaning at work; Changing organisational forms and new forms of organisational control and branding; Du Gay’s notion of the ‘enterprising self’; and Unemployment and social policy.</p> <p>Assessment: Essay 100%</p>	Spring	20