



Durham
University

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Module Handbook

2025-26

MODULE CHOICES

The full programme regulations for your degree, listing what module options you have, can be found via the following links:

Criminology:

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2023/UG/programme/L370>

Sociology:

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2023/UG/programme/L300>

Sociology with Anthropology:

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2023/UG/programme/LL36>

Education Studies (Sociology):

<https://apps.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/2023/UG/programme/XL33>

To help you identify modules you may be interested in, the following pages also offer a brief synopsis of our current level 2 and 3 modules.

The information in this booklet applies to next academic year (2023-24) only. We review our modules on a yearly basis and while changes tend not to be radical, the modules we offer next year may be different in content or availability the year after.



LEVEL 1 MODULE SYNOPSES

LEVEL 1 MODULES

Classical Sociological Theory (20 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: two essays (50% each)

This module illustrates changing understandings of the relationship between structure and agency in sociological thinking both across time and in relation to current sociological debates.

It first focuses on the 'classical' canon of sociological theory – Marx, Weber, Durkheim- as it was established between the late 1930s and the 1960s before moving to problematize the idea of a 'classical' canon, and expanding the range of theoretical positions that make up the sociological way of reasoning. The module gives you a strong theoretical foundation for sociological thinking, a broad knowledge of a range of theoretical positions and an ability to apply them to social issues.



Criminal Justice Landscape (20 Credits)

Requirements: *Introduction to Criminological Theory* (corequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: one essay (50%) and one take-home exam (50%)

This module is designed to provide you with knowledge of the criminal justice system in terms of its institutions, policies, processes and practices.

The module locates the criminal justice system as a dynamic enterprise that has, at times, competing demands and resources. It presents the opportunity to discuss and debate its core function and purpose.



The module creates space for a much wider critical engagement with the criminal justice system than is presented in academic literature. It allows you to connect to the process of criminal justice through formal lectures and seminars, including talks

from guest speakers within criminal justice institutions, and visits to core institutions within the criminal justice landscape.

LEVEL 1 MODULES

Critical Scholarship in the Social Sciences (20 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: weekly workshops

Summative Assessment: weekly worksheet activities (20% total), one essay (40%) and one group presentation plus individual reflection (40% total)

This module looks at the ways we develop and communicate arguments and ideas in the social sciences.

The aim is to develop your academic skills around critical analysis, personal reflection, group work, academic writing, referencing, and presenting ideas verbally to different audiences. These are all skills you will need throughout the rest of the degree and later in life.

This module aims to ensure that all students receive the same introductory training in these skills regardless of educational background, using provocative questions

such as 'is graffiti art?' to support you to gather and synthesise academic evidence and craft a convincing academic argument.



Introduction to Criminological Theory (20 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: one essay (50%) and one take-home exam (50%)

The module explores key questions relating to what causes crime, why society and the state responds to crime in the way it does, and whether such responses are likely to be effective. We question what is 'crime', why is it defined in the way that it is and whose interests does this serve.

The module explores debates concerning whether offenders are rational actors or are compelled to engage in crime by forces (especially biological or socio-economic forces) beyond their control. Additionally, drawing on theory, you will engage with criminological disputes concerning whether the criminal justice system serves the interests of society as a whole or a privileged minority.

The module addresses contemporary political and criminal justice policy debates, including the relationship between crime and inequality, whether 'prison works', punishment versus rehabilitation, and whether criminal justice interventions may (counterintuitively) worsen offending behaviour.

LEVEL 1 MODULES

Social Research Methods (20 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars / computer practicals (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: one essay (50%) and one statistical analysis exercise (50%)

This module aims to explain: 1) the role of research in social science; 2) the ways in which we can do social research; and finally 3) the key concepts and criteria that underpin good research.

Addressing these aims implies engagement methodological debates and issues such as: how we conceptualise the nature of social phenomena and action; how is best go about producing and analysing data; how can we conduct research in a manner which is simultaneously rigorous, relevant and ethically sound; and what roles should social research play in wider society?

Through all this, the module will train you in various methods and concepts that underpin social research, as preparation for your second and final years of study when you will carry out research of your own. The module will also equip you with the conceptual tools needed to make sense of and evaluate social science research publications, so you can make more informed use of academic research in other parts of your degree.

Societies in Transition (40 Credits)

Requirements: none

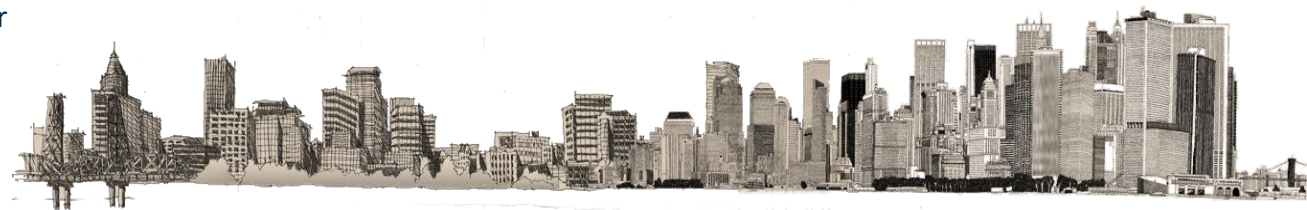
Classes: lectures (term 1 weekly / term 2 fortnightly) and seminars (weekly)

Summative Assessment: one poster (50%) and one essay (50%)

This module addresses questions of how societies are changing and what is contributing to these social changes.

Different dimensions of change are considered, including those associated with gender, families, place, sexuality, race, religion, work, technology, migration, etc. The module asks to what extent societies shape the people within them and/or people can shape and change the societies in which they live.

In doing this, the module introduces a range of wider sociological, policy and practice debates over inequalities and responses to them, as well as more theoretical debates such as those concerning the relationship between structure and agency. These are set within a critical consideration of broader debates about globalisation and collective forms of action for social change.



LEVEL 2 MODULE SYNOPSES

LEVEL 2 MODULES

Communities & Social Justice (20 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: workshops (weekly / fortnightly as scheduled)

Summative Assessment: one essay (50%) and one issue-based strategy (50%)

This module critically engages with theory and praxis centred on 'communities' and 'social justice'. Focusing on global and international issues, we explore how State and non-state actors (such as non-governmental organisations, community-based groups and social movements) respond to inequalities and injustices in society. We explore concepts such as human rights, social justice, inclusion, advocacy, protest, civil disobedience, and healing justice.

The module is based on active learning, dialogue, collaboration, and group work. The formative assessment is a group presentation.



Contemporary Criminological Theory (20 Credits)

Requirements: *Introduction to Criminological Theory* (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: one essay (50%) and take-home exam (50%)

Drawing upon contemporary criminological theory, this module explores late modern socio-economic, political and technological change and asks what the impact of this is on the nature of crime and crime control.

We question the relationship between gender, class and ethnicity and experiences of crime and victimisation through empirical examples (e.g. football hooliganism, human trafficking, cybercrime, environmental crime, racial profiling and stop-and-search).

The module also explores debates concerning whether contemporary forms of crime control are socially just, respect citizens' rights and are sophisticated enough to address the complex socio-economic, cultural and technological drivers of crime within our contemporary era.

Students are encouraged to reflect upon the relevance of contemporary criminological theory for explaining these empirical phenomena.

LEVEL 2 MODULES

Crime, Power and Social Inequalities (20 Credits)

Requirements: *Introduction to Criminological Theory* or *Classical Sociological Theory* (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: take-home exam (100%)

This module explores the significance of power differences and social inequalities- such as gender, age, ethnicity and social class- to definitions of crime, and processes of criminalisation (becoming criminal) and victimisation (becoming a victim).

We consider how 'crime' is defined by the criminal justice system. We study who is understood by the police, the courts and society more broadly to be a perpetrator or a victim of crime. We also consider how different groups are affected by social harms. These may sometimes be harms we understand as crimes, but will also include things that are not conventionally thought of as criminal.

Rather than seeking individual explanations, the module aims to show how people are positioned as members of different groups and how this structures their experiences of the criminal justice system.

Modern & Contemporary Sociological Theory (20 Credits)

Requirements: *Classical Sociological Theory* (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: one essay (50%) and one take-home exam (50%)

This module engages with sociological theories from the end of the Second World War to the present. The module is split into two parts, each representing a distinct approach to theorizing.

In term one, we engage with ideas of structure, action and interaction, and the shift in sociological thinking from systems to networks, asking if 'the social' is best described as integration or disintegration at a global level today. We begin with the structural dispute between functionalist accounts of development and dependency/world systems accounts of underdevelopment, followed by challenges from micro perspectives, leading to current disputes over postmodernity, risk and so on.

In term two, we address questions such as: What is theory for? What makes a society and what makes societies change? How free are we to act and can we all do so with equal freedom? How should the reproduction of power, oppression and privilege be understood? And is it only humans that act? These questions are situated in the context of social processes like neoliberalism, decolonization, climate change, etc.

LEVEL 2 MODULES

Policing & Police (20 Credits)

Requirements: *Introduction to Criminological Theory* or *Classical Sociological Theory* (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: one essay (50%) and one take-home exam (50%)

This module focuses on the key issues and developments in British policing from its inception up until the present day. It analyses key policing issues within the context of social, political, ideological and economic change. It covers themes as diverse as preventative policing and police professionalisation.

This module outlines key theoretical approaches in both historical and contemporary police studies and enables you to apply them to the operational challenges faced in police practice. The dynamic nature of policing means its structures and processes are continually under review and changing. The changing role, function, practices and representations of the police can only be understood within the broader criminological and societal context.



Research Methods in Action (40 Credits)

Requirements: *Social Research Methods* (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly), project workshops (fortnightly) and statistics practicals (weekly, term 1 only)

Summative Assessment: one data analysis report (30%), one research project report (50%) and one research proposal (20%)

Following on from Social Research Methods, this module is focused on developing practical research skills and helping you to learn how to do social research.

There are three main areas the module focuses on: 1) how to design a research study, from research question, to methodological framework, to sampling and ethics; 2) how to work with and analyse quantitative data; and 3) how to work with and analyse qualitative data.

The core of your work for the module will be a small, group-based research project which you will design and carry out with peers with supervision from an academic researcher. You will also spend time working with quantitative datasets and developing a dissertation research plan for assessment.

In all these ways, the module aims to prepare you for the final-year dissertation module. Beyond your degree, it will also offer you a solid foundation for a career or further study in research or data analysis.

LEVEL 2 MODULES

Self, Identity & Society (20 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: two essays (50% each)

This module invites you to explore big questions related to the relationships of culture, structure and agency: Do we have free will to shape our identities, are we authors of our own biographies or is society so structured our identities are shaped before we were born?

It does this by looking at how power works in society, how social spaces and interactions shape who we are through aspects of our personal lives and experiences then wider as a community, or a citizen.

The module encourages you to think critically about the social world and the place and nature of the self within in. Referring to a variety of concepts and theories we will help you to understand and think critically about your own particular lens on the world, and to open up a broader debate about citizenship, solidarity, and divisions.



Sociology of Education (20 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: two essays (50% each)

This module looks at how and why education creates inequality and what we can do about it. It explores educational inequality in schools and universities and how it links to broader social inequalities of race, class, gender and disability.

We do this through examining key contemporary sociological and policy debates around selection for education, the creation of comprehensive schooling, critical pedagogies and alternative models of education, sexism, racism and classism in the education system. We also discuss contemporary questions like the decolonization of the curriculum in higher education and who should pay for higher education?

The module allows you to understand your own experience of education and the experiences of others around you by asking you to think critically about your education and whether it could be different. The aim of the module is to understand and critique how our education system currently works and to understand the possibilities for transformation.

LEVEL 2 MODULES

Sociology of Health & Medicine (20 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: one portfolio essay (100% each)

This introductory module addresses many of the major themes in health sociology research today, from the experiences of patients and those with chronic illness, to how healthcare systems and medical technologies work in the UK and throughout the world, to health inequalities and how the places we live impact the health we, as a society or a community do or do not have.

Drawing on medical sociology theory and research, we will ask questions like: what are people's rights around health? Do people deserve access to healthcare, and to what extent? What impact do the radical developments in health technologies and biomedical research have on people and the environment and how do we regulate or address the ethical, environmental, political, economic and social implications of this work?



Violence and Abuse in Society (20 Credits)

Requirements: 20+ credits in Sociology / Criminology modules (pre-/ corequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (monthly)

Summative Assessment: scrapbook (100%)

This module explores criminological and sociological research and perspectives on different forms of violence and abuse in society. Particularly, the module engages with common forms of violence and abuse that take place within everyday contexts such as the family, intimate relationships and public spaces, including domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and street harassment.

We explore these topics from a feminist perspective, focussing on key theories such as gender, power, intersectionality and the continuum of sexual violence, to develop a critical sociological understanding of the causes, nature, extent and consequences of different forms of violence and abuse.



LEVEL 2 MODULES

Community Placement (20 Credits - Capped)

Requirements: 40+ credits in level 2 Sociology / Criminology modules (prerequisite) and 20+ credits in level 3 Sociology / Criminology modules (corequisite)

Classes: 50-hour work placement and workshops (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: placement journal and reflective essay (75%) and oral presentation (25%)

This module is focused on the lived reality of sociology – how we live and work together.

For this module students undertake a period of work in a community practice environment (previously students have worked at organisations supporting families affected by incarceration, at charities working with women trying to exit sex work, at food banks, at Durham Sport, at organisations supporting people with mental health issues through art, and many more!).

Through this work experience, students are able to connect the practical and lived lives of the everyday with the sociological imagination. The module tasks you with critically thinking about how communities work and how to bring together Sociology as theory and as practice.





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LEVEL 3 MODULE SYNOPSES

LEVEL 3 MODULES

Crime, Justice & the Sex Industry (10 Credits)

Requirements: 20+ credits in level 2 Sociology / Criminology modules (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module assesses the current politics of prostitution reform, at both local and global levels. It considers historical and contemporary criminal justice debates on managing prostitution / sex work.

Issues engaged with include: should the selling or purchase of sex be criminalised or should the selling and purchase of sex be decriminalised altogether? To what extent is violence against sex workers sufficiently addressed by current policy and legislation in the UK, and globally? Can sex work be considered a job like any other? Who is most likely to be involved in commercial sex work and how does this differ by gender, age, ethnicity, etc.

The module examines research that focus on the lived experience of people working in the sex industry and considers how this evidence can be used to critically engage with criminal justice policy and practice.

Cyberculture & Cybercrime (10 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module examines the relationship between crime and culture. The module asks questions like: when does information become criminal? Have digital networks increased or reduced the risk of criminal victimisation? When are virtual crimes 'real'? Is cybercrime just old wine in new bottles? Does the term 'cyberterrorism' confuse more than inform us? The same question can be asked of 'cyber' fraud, pornography, child-pornography, stalking, bullying, grooming, hate-crime, and piracy. Does the digital make a difference?

The foundational question in sociology is the 'problem of order'. In a global network world, the regulative capacity of nation-states is weakened. The study of cybercrime then becomes central to addressing whether society can be maintained in an age of distributed networks. Have new regulative frames arisen or is the world becoming a free for all?



LEVEL 3 MODULES

Digital Health & Other Devices (10 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module provides you with the conceptual and methodological tools to think sociologically about the development and use of technologies in lay and professional management of health and illness.

We explore how health technologies have changed over time looking at specific case examples of digital health, artificial intelligence, telemedicine, personalised medicine, health data, and apps for health and illness. We will look at the ways these kinds of technologies are changing our relationships with our bodies, health and practitioners.



Drugs and Society (10 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module will introduce students to the sociological study of drug use and drug policy, focusing on the complex politics (of race, class, and more) that run through them.

We will explore how drugs have been socially and politically regulated, paying particular attention to contemporary drug prohibition and the 'war on drugs'. We will examine the effects of drugs in the brain, the history of human efforts to alter consciousness through psychoactive substances, and the question of drug 'addiction', critically examining different moral and medical models of addiction. We will assess the success of criminal justice approaches to drug use, the challenge represented by public health-informed 'harm reduction' approaches, and consider how questions of social justice play out in the regulation of substances.



LEVEL 3 MODULES

Feminist Anti-Violence Activism (10 Credits)

Requirements: *Violence and Abuse in Society* (pre-/corequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module explores the history of feminist activism on violence and abuse and its connections with key concepts, perspectives, and debates in feminist theory in sociology and criminology.

Orientating around the concept of 'useful knowledge', we draw on case studies from the UK and globally to develop understandings of how theory and research can be applied to generate social change.

We look at activism across three historical contexts: the 1970s-80s; the 1990s-00s; and from 2010 to the present. These periods are compared, considering the ways feminist activism can be seen as both a product of and producing some of the key social issues of the time. In doing so, this module provides an in-depth example of how sociological and criminological theory has been applied to real world problems.

Gender, Health and Medicine (10 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module examines the relationships between sex, gender, health, and modern medicine. We will develop a critical analysis of these relationships by exploring how medicine has participated in normative understandings of sex and gender, how treatments and health technologies are imbued with gendered meanings, and how gender affects health outcomes, behaviours, and medical practice.

The module combines social science theories with empirical examples (e.g., contraception, menstruation, menopause, masculinity and health behaviours, women's health activism) to think through disparities and power differentials located at the intersections of gender, health, and medicine. The module also tasks students to reflect on key contemporary developments and debates in how institutions address the historical neglect of women's health issues. In doing so, we will explore not only how gendered norms and inequalities are produced, but also how they might be addressed in the future.

LEVEL 3 MODULES

Global Racism (10 Credits)

Requirements: 20+ credits in level 2 Sociology / Criminology modules (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: scrapbook (100%)

From a historical-sociological and interdisciplinary perspective, this module explores both the idea of 'race' as a potent socially constructed idea and the sociological significance of racism in a global context

From an intersectional perspective, this module will deepen your understanding of how different racialised peoples experience and resist racism in different local contexts. More specially, we will explore the nature and impact of systemic racism at the global level, including the enduring impact of racial capitalism, neo-colonialism and white settler colonialism, as well as anti-racist, Indigenous and anti-colonial struggles for equality, civil rights and social justice.



Health & Place (10 Credits)

Requirements: 20+ credits in level 2 Sociology / Criminology modules (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

Where you live matters in terms of how long you live and your quality of life. Connections between health and place, however, are complex and varied. This module will explore how places shape our health through forces ranging from political economy and structural violence, to identity and embodiment.

We'll develop a critical analysis of both 'health' and 'place', exploring how places can be understood not simply as locations on a map but as networks of social relations, and similarly, how health can be understood not simply as the absence of illness but as a relational outcome between the biological, social, and psychical.

Drawing on understandings of place from human geography, sociological research on health inequalities, and ethnographic explorations of health and illness, we will examine the reciprocal relationship between health and place, in which places shape health and—perhaps less intuitively—health produces place.

LEVEL 3 MODULES

Issues in Criminal Justice (Inside-Out Prison Programme) (20 Credits)

Requirements: application required (see below)

Classes: workshops (weekly)

Summative Assessment: three reflective essays (total 100%)

This module critically engages with the criminal justice system in terms of its institutions, policies and practices. You will debate issues relating to crime, criminal justice processes, and institutions. We will draw on theory to think about what causes crime and how crime should be dealt with in society. You will engage in debates and discussions around current issues in gender, ethnicity, the regulation of drugs and the role of prisons in the criminal justice system.

This module is taught as a collaboration between Durham University (what we call 'outside') students and people currently incarcerated in prison (what we call 'inside' students). Currently the programme is running outside with contributions from lived experience former inside alumni and the opportunity to participate in a prison-based workshop.

Note that recruitment for Inside-Out starts in the second year of study and there is a robust application process to make sure the module is a good fit for you.



LEVEL 3 MODULES

Justice, Violence & Abuse (10 Credits)

Requirements: *Violence and Abuse in Society* (pre-/corequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module engages with the concept of justice (broadly conceived) in the context of responding to sexual and domestic violence in society.

In doing so, we explore different theories and research that engages with the topic of justice, and other forms of redress and intervention, from a feminist perspective. We will cover a number of key arenas and models of responding to violence and abuse, such as: victim-survivor perspectives on justice, the criminal justice system, restorative justice, domestic abuse perpetrator programmes, emerging responses, in addition to working with men, employers, and universities to tackle violence and abuse.

In examining these topics, this module explores compelling questions such as ‘what does justice look like for victim-survivors of sexual and domestic violence?’ and ‘What are some of the problems and possibilities that arise with responses to violence and abuse.’

Race, Racism & Social Justice in Britain (10 Credits)

Requirements: 20+ credits in level 2 Sociology / Criminology modules (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

Situated in both an historical and global context, this module explores the impact of race and racism. In doing so, we will explore these issues from an intersectional perspective, with a view to deepening our understanding of how some people experiences multiple and overlapping forms domination and oppression.

As well as theoretically exploring different forms of racism, this module will also explore the different ways people have come together across space and time in their pursuit of civil rights and social justice.



LEVEL 3 MODULES

Social Policy: Principles & Current Issues (20 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: one essay (50%) and one take-home exam (50%)

This module looks at how social policy has been influenced by contemporary social and political change. It challenges conventional debates and wisdom in social policy that tend to provide generally consensual and technocratic solutions to social problems without (necessarily) questioning the wider social, political and economic forces shaping societies.

We focus on the welfare state in the UK and how it is changing but we also bring in examples of social policy from across the world. We ask questions like: what were the impacts of social policy responses to COVID-19? What does austerity mean? What does it mean to claim benefits? Is the discourse of “strivers” and “skivers” really true? How do marginalised and minoritised groups experience social policies?

The module explores the ideologies and policies underpinning current debates about the welfare state, giving you the theoretical and conceptual tools to understand models of social policy.

Social Theory & the Politics of Knowledge (10 Credits)

Requirements: *Modern and Contemporary Sociological Theory* or *Contemporary Criminological Theory* (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

How does sociology act in the world? This module explores the social and political effects of sociological and criminological knowledge, focusing on contributions related to justice and recognition, inequality and oppression, the status of a person and so on. It asks: what does sociological knowledge do? What is the relationship between theory and politics? What does it mean to say that sociology is critical? And does knowledge automatically lead to emancipation?

Building on the theories taught in previous years, the module aims to provide a critical understanding of how theory relates to and the social, political and economic elements of its production. Thematic sessions and self-directed study emphasize 'working-with' rather than 'learning-about' theory. Through this, you will have the space to reflect on the relationship between arguments in sociology and their social and historical contexts, and to critically assess and evaluate the political and social implications of different theories.

LEVEL 3 MODULES

Sociology of Forensic Science (10 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module looks at how forensic evidence is produced across the criminal justice system, from crime scene to court and beyond. This involves the work of scientists, but also police, lawyers, suspects, victims, publics and the media. We also focus on the social impact of emerging biometric technology such as DNA and facial recognition, and the implications for social justice globally.

The module asks just how 'scientific' is forensic science, and why should we be concerned? How far should we trust the law in understanding forensic science? How does society know itself through forensic and biometric technology, and should we really be so reliant on these technologies? How can and should these technologies be governed?

To address these questions, the module takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on sociology and philosophy of science, criminology and socio-legal studies. The module considers the possibility that forensic science 'co-produces' and is 'co-produced' by science and wider society.

Sociology of Mental Health and Illness (10 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

Unlike physical health, mental health remains a highly problematic topic, as it is difficult for people to talk about, acknowledge, and address.

Sociology offers a way to make sense of mental disorders that goes beyond (but also helps to make better) the approach offered by psychology, psychiatry and medicine by focusing on the wider social context in which mental disorders take place.

This module will explore controversies and debates around mental health definitions, treatments and societal acceptance to show how mental disorders are a window into a society. It will also, in turn, explore what it is like to live with a mental disorder, particularly for those with chronic conditions, and how people navigate their personal lives, work, public interactions, etc.

LEVEL 3 MODULES

Sociology of Reproduction & Parenthood (10 Credits)

Requirements: 20+ credits in level 2 Sociology / Criminology modules (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module critically examines some of the normative, taken-for-granted concepts, assumptions and discourses around contemporary reproduction and parenthood such as what makes a 'good' parent and why people have children in the first place.

The module links these normative constructions of parenthood and reproduction to wider social, cultural, and political changes, highlighting the ways in which ideas about reproduction and parenthood are culturally-located.

Taking a feminist stance and using examples such as conception, abortion, and infant feeding, we demonstrate the ways in which 'the personal is political' and women's bodies in particular are subject to surveillance and scrutiny as 'vessels' for future citizens.



Sociology of Work (10 Credits)

Requirements: 20+ credits in level 2 Sociology / Criminology modules (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module looks at the modern world of work and asks why it looks the way it does and where the future of work is heading. We question what is work, why do we work, who benefits from work, is work inherently exploitative under capitalism, and, if so, how might we change that.

The module combines theories of work with empirical examples of work practices (e.g. professional football, hairdressing, etc.) to think through some of these thorny issues. The module also tasks students to reflect on their own place within the labour market, past, present and future.

The module addresses some important political and policy debates in work, such as discrimination and inequality, zero-hours contracts and deindustrialisation, as well as important contemporary sociological research about the changing nature of work and the relationship between work and identity.

LEVEL 3 MODULES

The Body as Data (10 Credits)

Requirements: none

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

The module aims to apply theoretical resources from sociology and science and technology studies to the analysis of the production and use of bodily data in a variety of social contexts.

It examines how biometric technology, governmentalities, agencies and both individual and collective identities are co-produced, showing how social theory can critique and challenge the claims and uses of biometric data.

The module goes on to situate the social impact of biometric technology in national, international, transnational and postcolonial contexts. In doing so, it aims to understand and anticipate the human rights and social justice impacts of emerging biometric technologies.



Youth in Crisis (10 Credits)

Requirements: 20+ credits in level 2 Sociology / Criminology modules (prerequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: take-home exam (100%)

The module introduces some important questions about how we think about young people and how they live their lives; it also explores the subject of youth crime and how society deals with it.

It explores some of the major changes in young people's lives, and it asks why we see youth as a distinct life stage, and why young people are often seen as problematic or troublesome.

To do this, the module introduces and critically analyses some of the major theories of youth and adolescence. It explores the changing patterns of young people's lives, acknowledging the influence of diversity and discrimination on their experiences. It considers some of the problems young people might face, and it considers patterns of youth crime and the treatment of young people in the justice system.

LEVEL 3 MODULES

Globalisation and the Sex Industry (10 Credits)

Requirements: Crime, Justice and the Sex industry (corequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module aims to explore contemporary issues of globalisation, the global sex trade, and global policy/prostitution reform. In doing so, you will engage with and assess empirical research that focuses on the lived experience of people from the global majority in the sex industry.

Key topics includes:

- Globalisation and the sex industry.
- Sex work and sex tourism.
- Trafficking- migration nexus.
- International anti trafficking policy and practice.
- Politics of anti-trafficking/ anti-modern slavery.
- Sex work/ trafficking in the media and popular culture.

Digital Culture: Moral Panics and Conspiracy Thinking in Sociological Perspective(s) (10 Credits)

Requirements: 20+ credits in level 2 Sociology / Criminology modules (prerequisite) or *Cyberculture and Cybercrime* (corequisite)

Classes: lectures (weekly) and seminars (fortnightly)

Summative Assessment: essay (100%)

This module aims to address whether distributed digital networks escalate forms of virtual harm (harmful speech acts), in particular the incitement to perform various forms of hate-crime, as well as whether they increase knowledge or ignorance in relation to citizen witnessing, conspiracy theories, fake-news and mis-/dis-information online.

This module also explores theoretical understandings of content crime in the information age (the third of the three core online crime types – crime against the machine, crime using the machine, crime in the machine), while discussing the role of law and other forms of regulation within the framework of control.

Finally, it examines the nature and role of new media representations in relation to their potential contribution to increasing freedom of speech and virtual harms.