AIM

This course does three things. First, it serves as an introductory course to substantive sociological topics and social divisions that are experienced in everyday settings: ageing and the life-course; class and stratification; culture; diversity; gender and sexualities; globalization processes; health, illness and the body; identities; politics; race and ethnicity; and so on.

Second, it has been designed to introduce students to as large a number of members of staff as possible, and give you a sense of their research interests. By doing this, you'll get a sense of what our staff interested in, how their work relates to the big topics of social research and the potential themes of courses developed later in the degree programme. You won't meet absolutely everyone in the department on Cultivating, but between this course and the other first year modules, you should hopefully gain a sense of almost everyone’s interests and this will help you select your second and third year modules.

Third, it should help you to cultivate a ‘sociological imagination’ from the start of your studies. The phrase ‘sociological imagination’ was used most famously by the American sociologist C. Wright Mills. In a 1959 book of this title Mills made a case for developing a distinctive sociological sensibility in which people can locate their own experiences within broader historical and social contexts. Although the book is (relatively) old, the central argument continues to hold a key relevance within the subject, even if the central ideas need to be translated into contemporary examples. This is what we hope to do in the course, by getting you thinking creatively about the topics mentioned above. As an example, in your week on gender, as well looking at significant theories about gender, we get you to read a research paper which helps us to think about body hair as constitutive of gendered identity or norms, in an everyday and embodied way. Thus we can try to locate our everyday experiences within much wider debates and cultural processes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To cultivate a sociological imagination
- To inculcate good academic practices at the outset of your sociological studies
- To introduce basic concepts and empirical studies relating to selected substantive issues in contemporary sociology, especially those relating to the analysis of social divisions and globalisation.

ORGANISATION

The module will be taught through lectures and seminars. There will be two weekly 1 hour lectures over 8 weeks in both of Terms 1 and 2 (32 lectures in total) accompanied by linked weekly 1 hour seminars (16 seminars in total). In Term 3 there will be two revision lectures and two seminars in the first few weeks.
of term to support examination preparation. The face-to-face aspects of the module will be supported by an extensive set of resources on the ‘Yorkshare’ Virtual Learning Environment (VLE); these will include copies of the lectures; on-line readings; links to video and other materials; and extensive guides to essential, recommended and background reading.

**ASSESSMENT**

The module will be assessed by 3 different pieces of work: A short exercise (20% of the total mark) to be handed in in Week 10 of Term 1; an essay (30% of the total mark) to be handed in in week 10 of Term 2; and a 3-hour closed examination (50% of the total mark) to be held at some point in weeks 5-7 in term 3.
SOC00002C: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Module Convenor: Prof Nik Brown

Level 1 | 30 Credits | Terms 1, 2 and 3 | 2017-18

Prerequisites: None

Compulsory for Degrees: Sociology; Sociology with Criminology; Sociology with Social Psychology; Sociology and Education; Sociology and Philosophy; and Social and Political Sciences.

AIM

This module is in two parts. The first part looks at the origins of sociology as a discipline. It opens by looking at the circumstances and conditions leading to some of our discipline’s great thinkers and critics including Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), Auguste Comte (1798-1857), Harriet Martineau (1802-1876), Karl Marx (1818-1883), Emile Durkheim (1858-1917), Max Weber (1864-1920), and Georg Simmel (1858-1918). We will look at each of these thinkers in turn and will get to grips with some of their key texts. To do this, we will consider each thinker in relation to a set of core concepts and ideas that have become central to sociological theory, for example: gender (Wollstonecraft), class, value and labour (Marx); class status, power and bureaucracy (Weber); positivism and social facts (Durkheim). Through this part of the module, we will raise questions about the intersection of sociological theory and sociological method, and explore connections between the social and the natural sciences. We will also question the contemporary relevance of the above writers by considering the extent to which their theories and concepts are, or are not, out-dated today.

The second part of this module turns its attention to contemporary social theory. The aim here is to build on many of the ideas and concepts considered in the previous term by focussing on sociological theory from the 1960s onwards. It will be organized, like the first term, around key thinkers and fundamental figures in the recent history of the discipline.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To provide a detailed introduction to classical and contemporary sociological theory
- To introduce some key concepts of social theory
- To illustrate how classical and contemporary theory can be applied to the study of the social world today

ORGANISATION

The module will be taught through lectures and seminars. There will be two weekly 1 hour lectures over 8 weeks in both of Terms 1 and 2 (32 lectures in total) accompanied by linked weekly 1 hour seminars (16 seminars in total). In Term 3 there will be some revision lectures and supporting seminars in the first few weeks of term to support examination preparation. The face-to-face aspects of the module will be supported by an extensive set of resources on the ‘Yorkshare’ Virtual Learning Environment (VLE); these will include copies of the lectures; on-line readings; and extensive guides to essential, recommended and background reading.
ASSESSMENT

The module will be assessed by 3 different pieces of work: A short exercise (20% of the total mark) to be handed in in Week 10 of Term 1; an essay (30% of the total mark) to be handed in in week 10 of Term 2; and a 3-hour closed examination (50% of the total mark) to be held at some point in weeks 5-7 in term 3.

Some Indicative Reading:


SOC00003C: SOCIOLOGY OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Module Convenor: David Honeywell

Level 1 | 30 Credits | Terms 1, 2 and 3 | 2017-18

Prerequisites: None

Compulsory for Degrees: Sociology; Sociology with Criminology; Sociology with Social Psychology.
Optional for: Social and Political Sciences

AIM

This module offers an introduction to key themes in the sociology of crime and deviance. Our goal is to make sense of social order and normalcy and to shed some light on the social, cultural and economic context of crime and deviance.

The objectives of this module are to:

- Provide a critical introduction to key themes within criminology
- Provide an overview of a number of controversies within contemporary criminology
- Introduce students to a number of aspects of criminological theory

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Discuss the historical development of the social theories that underpin the discipline of criminology
- Understand key criminological theories and how they interlink and build upon each other
- Engage with the contributions of theory to policy
- Express ideas and arguments coherently through presentations and group discussion.

ORGANISATION

The module will be taught through lectures and seminars. There will be one two-hour lecture every week for 8 weeks in both of Terms 1 and 2 (16 lectures in total) accompanied by linked weekly one-hour seminars (16 seminars in total). In Term 3 there will be some revision lectures and supporting seminars in the first few weeks of term to support examination preparation. The face-to-face aspects of the module will be supported by an extensive set of resources on the ‘Yorkshare’ Virtual Learning Environment (VLE); these will include copies of the lectures powerpoint slides; on-line readings; links to video and other materials; and an extensive module outline that provides essential, recommended and background reading.

ASSESSMENT

The module will be assessed by 3 different pieces of work: A short exercise (20% of the total mark) to be handed in in Week 10 of Term 1; an essay (30% of the total mark) to be handed in in week 10 of Term 2; and a 3-hour closed examination (50% of the total mark) to be held at some point in weeks 5-7 in term 3.
Module set text


Some Indicative Reading

INTRODUCING SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Module Convenor: TBA

Level 1 | 30 Credits | Terms 1, 2 and 3 | 2017-18

Prerequisites: None

Compulsory for Degrees: Sociology; Sociology with Criminology; Sociology with Social Psychology. Optional for: Social and Political Sciences

AIM

To introduce the discipline of social psychology, identify the different perspectives within social psychology, and consider how these perspectives conceptualise the relationship between the individual and society.

This module will help you to identify, and develop a critical awareness of, the different strands of social psychology which have emerged within the disciplines of psychology and sociology. In the first term you will be presented with a distinctively sociological social psychology (SSP). SSP draws from sociology and philosophy and examines the social, historical, and cultural context of behaviour and observes people in their own social worlds. You will be introduced to approaches which have redefined contemporary social psychology; social constructionism, ethnomethodology, and symbolic interactionism, and start to think critically about different ways of understanding the relationship between the individual and society. In the second term, we will examine the more traditional psychological social psychology, which tends to use experiments and observes people in laboratory settings in order to establish laws about human behaviour. We will encourage you to think critically about approaches to studying human social conduct.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This module will enable students to:

- Understand sociological and social psychological theory and methods;
- Call upon sociological and social psychological approaches, methods and concepts to deal with and understand events and occurrences;
- Place and understand social phenomena in a wider social context;
- Appreciate the foundations and contemporary debates in the disciplines of sociology and social psychology;
- Synthesise various literature so as to construct coherent arguments.

ORGANISATION

The module will be taught through lectures and seminars. There will be two one-hour lectures every week for 8 weeks in both of Terms 1 and 2 (16 lectures in total) accompanied by linked weekly 1 hour seminars (16 seminars in total). In Term 3 there will be some revision lectures and supporting seminars in the first few weeks of term to support examination preparation. The face-to-face aspects of the module will be supported by an extensive set of resources on the ‘Yorkshare’ Virtual Learning Environment (VLE); these will include copies of the lectures; on-line readings; links to video and other materials; and guides to essential, recommended and background reading.

ASSESSMENT

The module will be assessed by 3 different pieces of work: A short exercise (20% of the total mark) to be
handed in in Week 10 of Term 1; an essay (30% of the total mark) to be handed in in week 10 of Term 2; and a 3-hour closed examination (50% of the total mark) to be held at some point in weeks 5-7 in term 3.

Some Indicative Reading