Undergraduate Module Selection Guide

Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology

The following module descriptions briefly explain the content of the Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology modules available for Undergraduate students. For more information about assessment, reading materials and learning outcomes see the online module specifications at: www.liverpool.ac.uk/sociology-social-policy-and-criminology/study/undergraduate

2017/18
Year 1

**SOCI 101: Sociological Theory: 30 Credits | Whole session**

This module is organised around classic and contemporary sociological theory. The first semester engages in some detail with the frameworks - and classic studies - of Marx, Weber, Durkheim so as to give a sense of key perspectives in sociology, while the second semester traces their influence, including via critiques, throughout twentieth century and contemporary social thought (and so in the process covering traditions and approaches represented by Parsons, Merton, Elias, Bourdieu, Haraway, Butler, Beck, Lyotard, Derrida, Latour etc).

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Steffi Doebler**

**Assessment Type: Exam (40%) and Coursework (60%)**

**SOCI 102: Social Change and Social Policy in Contemporary British Society I: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module provides an overview of continuity and change in British social, cultural, political and economic life since 1945. It assesses how Britain has changed over this period, why these changes have occurred and with what consequences. As such, it is concerned with both the social forces which bring about change and the social outcomes which arise from them.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Daniella Tepe Belfrage**

**Assessment Type: Exam (50%) and Coursework (50%)**

**SOCI 103: Social Change and Social Policy in Contemporary British Society II: 15 Credits | Semester 2**

This module aims to provide students with an appreciation of the main changes that have taken place in British society since 1945, with a particular emphasis on "race" and ethnicity, gender and social class. It provides students with an understanding of how sociologists have studied, described and explained these changes.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Kirsteen Paton**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

**SOCI 106: Studying Society: 30 Credits | Whole session**

The module aims to introduce students to a range of methods of enquiry commonly used within the disciplines of sociology, criminology and social policy and to key approaches to the gathering of knowledge/data. Teaching and learning activities give students an opportunity to study and to practice key skills necessary to make effective use of available information resources, and to communicate ideas using a range of methods, including verbal and written presentation. The module will equip students with skills which are relevant to learning in subsequent years. It will allow students to build up a body of work which they can refer to and build upon throughout their degree studies.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Steffi Doebler**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (65%) and Practical Assessment (35%)**
This module introduces students to the subject matter of sociological criminology and to introduce concepts and frameworks through which the nature, extent and ‘causes’ of crime have been conceptualised. The aim is also to consider how crime is constructed, perceived and responded to within society and to explore the inter-relationships between crime, social problems and their context.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Lynn Hancock**

**Assessment Type:** Exam (100%)

This module provides a critical introduction to the criminal justice system. Its focus is mainly the criminal justice system in England and Wales although other systems are referred to as are international developments. The module is designed to encourage critical appraisal of key criminal justice institutions, which include the police, the courts, prisons, and criminal justice processes.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Zoe Alker**

**Assessment Type:** Coursework (100%)
**Year 2**

**SOCI 205: Social Exclusion: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module is concerned with studying the origins and development of the concept of Social Exclusion. Students will explore and evaluate its theory and practice and will consider a number of case studies around class, 'race' and ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and gender. You will evaluate policy responses and social action to counter social exclusion; discuss the relationship between exclusion and other forms of social stratification and consider a number of theoretical perspectives that utilise inclusion/exclusion concepts.

*Module Co-ordinator: Dr Diane Frost*

*Assessment Type: Exam (100%)*

**SOCI 207: Comparing Welfare States: 15 Credits | Semester 2**

Based on Esping-Andersen's classic analysis of the 'three worlds of welfare capitalism', this module provides a framework for comparing welfare states, i.e. 'the mixed economy of welfare' in different 'welfare regimes': including the 'liberal' regime in America, the 'conservative' regime in Germany and the 'social democratic' regime in Sweden. It examines the ways in which these different regimes emerged historically, how they organise and deliver welfare, the social, political and economic priorities they embody, the outcomes they have for different social groups and their prospects for the future.

*Module Co-ordinator: Dr Michael Mair*

*Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)*

**SOCI 212: Understanding Non-Profit Organisations: Work Based Learning 15 Credits | Semester 2**

This module provides you with the opportunity to learn in situ. It combines practical experience of volunteering with the study of organisational theory and management perspectives within the non-profit sector, and can help you to develop useful skills within the curriculum that may result in increased 'employability.'

*Module Co-ordinator: Dr Louise Hardwick*

*Assessment Type: Coursework (80%) and Practical Assessment (20%)*

**SOCI 213: Understanding Digital Culture and Society: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module involves critical exploration of the place and role of digital technology in society, engaging theoretically and empirically with important questions regarding the implications of digitisation in social, political, economic and cultural life. As well as engaging with key ideas and debates, students are encouraged to reflect critically on their own digital lives and practice.

*Module Co-ordinator: Dr Andrew Kirton*

*Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)*
**SOCI 223: The Black Presence: Migration and Settlement in Britain: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module introduces students to the recent history (circa last 250 years) of black migration and settlement to the UK. It will look at the importance of historical change on contemporary understandings of 'race' and ethnic diversity. Through examining the slave trade, colonialism and post-war migration, students will gain a sense of the resilience of such communities to different forms of racism and discrimination. In addition, the module assesses the neglected contribution that black communities have made to British society.

*Module Co-ordinator: Dr Diane Frost*

*Assessment Type: Exam (50%) and Coursework (50%)*

**SOCI 236: Urban Sociology: 15 Credits | Semester 2**

The majority of the world's population can now be said to be urban and the most acute social challenges of the age to centre on cities. This module provides a comprehensive introduction to classical and contemporary social scientific studies of urban contexts. Tracing the development of theories of urban life - and the empirical studies that have accompanied them - this module is concerned with the variety of ways in which social scientists have sought to understand the complex and contested social spaces of cities.

*Module Co-ordinator: Dr Paul Jones*

*Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)*

**SOCI 241: Understanding Policing and the Police: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module provides an introduction to the sociology of policing and the police. Using a range of approaches to teaching, learning and assessment this module will equip you with knowledge and skills which will enable you to consider key issues in contemporary policing from an informed and critical perspective. Upon completing the module you should have a solid understanding of key concepts used to understand policing and the police from a sociological perspective, and you should be able to apply these concepts to produce clearly communicated critical reflections on local and global policing topics.

*Module Co-ordinator: Dr Liz Turner*

*Assessment Type: Exam (60%) and Coursework (40%)*

**SOCI 242: Thinking Sociologically: Approaches to Social Enquiry: 30 Credits | Whole session**

This year long core module provides students with a comprehensive overview of major developments in contemporary social theory, using the themes of structure/agency; culture; gender and knowledge as anchors. The module analyses theoretically informed and empirically grounded sociological theories and approaches and encourages students to apply key frameworks and perspectives to major contemporary social issues. Students will be invited to cogitate on the ways in which prominent thinkers have conceptualized underlying social processes and transformations in the contemporary era. The methodological focus will centre on the deployment of diverse methods and competing epistemologies and ontologies. The aim of the module is to provide students with a robust understanding of how sociological theorists have interpreted fundamental social and cultural changes and enabled us to understand and scrutinize the modern world.

*Module Co-ordinator: Prof Gabe Mythen*

*Assessment Type: Exam (50%) and Coursework (50%)*
**SOCI 244: Understanding Crime, Justice and Punishment: 30 Credits | Whole Session**

This module offers you the opportunity to explore how criminology has developed various perspectives throughout its historical and socio-political development. The key concepts devised and utilised by criminologists are also explored for their impacts upon criminal and social justice. The module is concerned with major controversies within criminological thinking and criminal justice practice.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Roy Coleman**

**Assessment Type: Exam (40%) and Coursework (60%)**

**SOCI 247: Quantitative Social Research Methods: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module examines how quantitative data can be used to investigate the social world. It considers how such data is gathered, the increasing prevalence of 'statistics' in making claims about the nature of social reality, how to go about assessing the accuracy of these claims, and how to practically analyse quantitative data to gain a better understanding of society.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Peter Campbell**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

**SOCI 248: Qualitative Social Research Methods II: 15 Credits | Semester 2**

This module is designed to provide students with an introduction to the theory and practice of social research using qualitative methods. The module covers qualitative research principles and design, ethics and reflexivity, data generation, data analysis, and presentation of findings. The module encourages students to develop both a critical understanding of and practical competencies in qualitative social research.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Zoe Alker**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

**SOCI 252: Deviance, Youth and Culture: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module introduces students to the core sociological understandings of deviance in both a domestic and international context. The module is designed to provide a critical insight into the concept of deviance, connecting significant past and present issues in the construction of deviants with sociological analyses and broader social, legal and cultural changes.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Nicole Vitellone**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

**SOCI 254: Punishment, Penalty and Prisons: Critical Debates: 15 Credits | Semester 2**

The module is underpinned by three core aims. First, to provide a broad overview of the historical, theoretical and comparative foundations of punishment and imprisonment nationally and internationally. Second, to examine the experiences and outcomes of imprisonment for identifiable groups of prisoners including: children and young people; women; black and minoritised people; older people. Third, to introduce a range of key debates and controversies surrounding the questions of punishment, penalty and prisons in ‘modern’ societies and to subject them to social scientific interrogation.

**Module Co-ordinator: Prof Barry Goldson**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**
**SOCI 256: Beyond Crime: Social Harm, Culture and Power: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module introduces you to the key sociological debates into social harm, culture and power and their relationship to maintaining social order. The module explores the role of popular music, subcultural practice and media in order to introduce historical and contemporary case studies into harmful cultural practices.

*Module Co-ordinator: Dr Roy Coleman*

*Assessment Type: Exam (60%) and Coursework (40%)*

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**SOCI 294: Age Studies: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module looks at all aspects of the life course - from childhood to old age - in late modernity. Taking gender studies as a paradigm its key aim is to explore the ways in which age stratification operates along with class, gender and other characteristics, to order, classify and divide populations in ways consistent with the maintenance of existing power hierarchies.

*Module Co-ordinator: Dr Susan Pickard*

*Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)*
Year 3

**SOCI 301: Dissertation: 30 Credits | Whole session**
Running across two semesters, the dissertation is a major part of your final year of study and allows you to revisit, consolidate and apply what you have learnt in the course of your degree studies by focusing in on a research topic of particular interest to you and investigating it systematically.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Michael Mair**
**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

**SOCI 303: Interchange Portfolio: Work-based Learning: 30 Credits | Whole session**
The module gives you the opportunity to engage in either an applied social research project or a distinct work project in collaboration with a local Voluntary Community Organisation (VCO). This is organised through the charity ‘Interchange’, based in School of Law and Social Justice.

**Module Co-ordinator: Ms Louise Hardwick**
**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

**SOCI 307: Health, Lifecourse & Society: 15 Credits | Semester 1**
The aims of this module are to develop a broad range of sociological understandings of issues relevant to health, illness and the life course. This will involve critically examining new developments in theoretical and methodological approaches as well as a variety of empirical studies on the social and cultural aspects of health, illness and the lifecourse.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Susan Pickard**
**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

**SOCI 308: Gender, the Body and Identity: 15 Credits | Semester 1**
This module explores issues concerning the gendered nature of work related to deviance. It considers arguments concerning women’s relation to deviance, explores the links between masculinities and crime, studies the experiences of female offenders and explores experiences of women as victims of crime. Teaching is based on current research and practice in this key area.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Karen Evans**
**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

**SOCI 310: Social Control and the City: 15 Credits | Semester 2**
Students will learn to understand the main theoretical arguments and debates around social control and surveillance practices and examine the relationship between the urban state power and the development of surveillance practices and social control. You will critically assess the relationship between the prevention of crime, social control and how these impact upon populations defined by class, gender, "race" and age.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Roy Coleman**
**Assessment Type: Exam (75%) and Coursework (25%)**

**SOCI 315: Gender, the Body and Identity: 15 Credits | Semester 1**
This module introduces students to key issues in contemporary feminist theory. Centring on the controversies and debates surrounding gender and identity the course examines the ways in which feminist theorists have developed, contested and expanded the concept of gender. To do so the module explores a wide range of contemporary issues on the body and power.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Nicole Vitellone**
**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**
**SOCI 319: Criminal Victimisation, Welfare and Policy: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

This module considers what being a victim means. Using the vehicle of victimology we shall explore the value of three concepts for our understandings of being a victim: trauma, testimony, and justice. Firstly we focus on the concept of trauma and its relationship to understanding criminal victimisation. Secondly we consider how we, as victimologists and criminologists, can give voice to victims’ experiences: testimony. Thirdly we consider how victims experiences might be translated into the policy arena: justice.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Ross McGarry**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

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**SOCI 320: The Risk Society: Crime, Security and Public Policy: 15 Credits | Semester 2**

This module examines the place of risk in the modern world. Students will be invited to explore the social impacts of various security risks and to examine the ways in which individuals produce, consume and manage risks in everyday life.

**Module Co-ordinator: Prof Gabe Mythen**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

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**SOCI 323: Youth Crime, Youth Justice and Social Control: 15 Credits | Semester 2**

The module is underpinned by three core aims. First, to provide a critical overview of the historical development of state policy responses to youth crime and to explore criminological and sociological conceptualisations of 'youth', 'crime', 'criminalisation' and 'justice'. Second, to analyse the competing priorities and underpinning discourses that inform youth justice policy formation. Third, to explore the application of youth justice policy through the interventions of state agencies, and to consider the principal consequences of such interventions for 'young offenders', the management of youth crime and the regulation and governance of young people.

**Module Co-ordinator: Prof Barry Goldson**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**

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**SOCI 328: The Panopticon and the People: Digital Approaches to the History of Crime and Punishment: 15 Credits | Semester 1**

Panopticon and the People examines how contemporary issues in criminology and criminal justice policy, including offending and the life course, persistence and desistance, gender and violence, youth crime, substance abuse, and gang crime, have been treated historically from the eighteenth century to the present.

Students will utilise online data archives and data visualisation techniques, including record linkage, mapping, and corpus linguistics, to interrogate criminological concepts including Michel Foucault's disciplinary gaze and Stanley Cohen's moral panic. Students will gain knowledge of historical methods and debates and gain transferrable digital skills.

**Module Co-ordinator: Dr Zoe Alker**

**Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)**
SOCI 335: Class and Every Day Life: 15 Credits | Semester 1
This module explores the continued relevance of class in the late modern, post-industrial period. It examines the role of class in the context of deindustrialisation, individualisation and the neoliberal moment which have pronounced its death. This module reasserts the continued relevance of class today under austerity and looks at how it manifests in our everyday lives through such things as our relationships, job, health and clothes and endures as a key mode of inequality and identity in the UK. It examines the ongoing fissures between cultural and economic/ phenomenological and material relations of class which have beset analysis and explores how these might be understood using various theoretical frameworks to explore the remaking of class subjects and show how class still matters.

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Kirsteen Paton
Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)

SOCI 336: Understanding Poverty Over the Life-Course Using Quantitative Data and Methods: 15 Credits | Semester 1
This module introduces sociological theories and measures of poverty over the life course. We will read and discuss theoretical concepts of poverty and life-course disadvantage and will critically analyse, how poverty affects people’s health and well-being over the life-course. This will be done via critically reviewing and analysing secondary literature on poverty and life-course disadvantage and by analysing real secondary data using statistical software in a computer lab setting. Questions the students will address are: what is “the life course”? What defines poverty and how can we measure it using quantitative data? How is poverty in earlier life related to healthy and successful ageing (and what defines “successful ageing”)? Are different population strata differently affected by life-course disadvantage than others? And how can (and does) social policy affect poverty and life-course disadvantage? Lastly, how can we, as sociologists contribute to understanding poverty and life-course disadvantage?

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Steffi Doebler
Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)

SOCI 341: Community and the Problem of Crime: 15 Credits | Semester 2
The problem of crime has been seen as a major issue of concern to the media, politicians and policy-makers over the last thirty years. This module critically examines responses to ‘crime’ and, more recently, ‘disorder’ in Britain over this period, and examines the ways in which these responses have impacted upon different sections of society. The module provides an introduction to the relationship between crime and community as this has been developed within the discipline of criminology in Western societies.

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Karen Evans
Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)

SOCI 346: ‘Race’, Community and Identity: 15 Credits | Semester 2
This module looks at the impact of colonialism on patterns of migration to Britain in the post war period. It examines the changing nature of racism as an ideology by exploring and contextualising scientific and institutional forms of racisms. You will look at the conflictual relationship between the state and minority ethnic communities through an examination of various struggles including anti-immigration ones. The module will also seek to unpack constructions of ethnic and national identity in the context of post-colonial Britain.

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Diane Frost
Assessment Type: Coursework (100%)
This module examines how 'communities' and members of the general public interact with and are 'involved' in crime control and criminal justice institutions. You will explore how the lay public are involved, who is involved and the effects of public involvement in different settings. The module is taught via lectures, seminars, independent study and your own research in one particular site of public involvement, the criminal courts.

**Module Co-ordinator:** Dr Lynn Hancock

**Assessment Type:** Coursework (100%)