



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

# SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL POLICY & CRIMINOLOGY

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## Module Guide

2020/21

School of Law and Social Justice

Please note this is a non-exhaustive and indicative list of modules which whilst correct at time of publication are subject to change on a yearly basis. The modules you will be required to undertake and the options available to you are dependent upon programme of study.

# Year 1

## SOCI 101: Sociological Theory

30 Credits | Whole session

This module provides a comprehensive introduction to classical and contemporary sociological theory. Tracing sociological analysis from its origins in the nineteenth century through to major present-day thinkers, the module addresses some of the discipline's landmark studies and theories, in the process equipping you with understanding of the major frameworks for thinking sociologically.

Assessment Type: (50%, 50%) Coursework

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## SOCI 102: Social Change and Social Policy in Contemporary British Society I

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module examines continuity and change in social, cultural, political and economic life in Britain over the twentieth and into the twenty-first century, particularly in the period after 1945. The module will examine areas of British life like politics, the economy, the family, social and cultural relations, and the role of social policy in responding to and encouraging wider forms of change.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 103: Social Change and Social Policy in Contemporary Society 2: Changing Inequalities

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module examines some of the main social changes that have taken place in British society since 1945. It draws upon sociological studies to discuss the inter-relationship between 'race', ethnicity, class and gender to understand the influence of these on society.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 106: Studying Society

30 Credits | Whole session

'Studying Society' is designed to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the field of social enquiry. What is 'the social'? Why would we study it? What would that involve? These are questions with which this module is concerned. It offers an introduction to the proper objects of social enquiry, relevant modes of thinking and questioning, strategies for finding, accessing, and evaluating sources of information, methods and techniques for generating and analysing data, as well as skills in communicating information and ideas effectively. In doing so, the module aims to equip students with a range of skills for the study of society at degree level and beyond. The module provides students with opportunities to both study and practice these skills.

Assessment Type: (60%, 40%) Coursework

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### SOCI 107: Introduction to Crime and Society

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module introduces you to the subject matter of sociological criminology. It provides an essential foundation for your studies in criminology at Liverpool. You will acquire an understanding of key issues and debates in the sociology of 'crime' and subject contemporary talk about 'the crime problem' to critical analysis.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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### SOCI 108: Controlling Crime: An Introduction

15 Credits | Semester 2

The 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 development. The module is designed to encourage critical appraisal of key criminal justice institutions, which include the police, the courts, prisons and criminal justice processes.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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# 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.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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## 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.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 213: Understanding Digital Culture and Society

30 Credits | Semester 1

Digital technologies now permeate our day to day lives, so much so that we have increasingly come to take them for granted. The increasing digitization of our lives should not be overlooked however. 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.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 218: Sexualities in Society

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module is designed to enable students to explore sociological theories and consider research findings relating to the study of sexualities in society. Through lectures and seminars students will consider how the ideas, beliefs and practices of sexualities intersect with other factors, such as gender, ethnicity, disability, class, religion, and age, and will focus on particular contemporary debates in order to do this.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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### SOCI 223: The Black Presence –Migration and Settlement in Britain 1800-1979

15 Credits | Semester 2

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.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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### SOCI 236: Urban Sociology

15 Credits | Semester 1

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.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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### SOCI 241: Policing in a Divided Society

15 Credits | Semester 1

*Pre-requisites: SOCI107 & SOCI108*

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 a range of policing topics.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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### SOCI 248: Qualitative Social Research Methods

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.

**Assessment Type:** (90%, 10%) Coursework

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## SOCI 252: Deviance, Youth and Culture

15 Credits | Semester 2

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.

**Assessment Type:** 100% coursework

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## SOCI 254: Punishment, Penalty and Prisons: Critical Debates

15 Credits | Semester 2

*Pre-requisites: SOCI107 & SOCI108*

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.

**Assessment Type:** 100% coursework

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## SOCI 256: Culture, Power and Social Change

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module introduces you to social harm, transgression and the carnivalesque. We then explore these as integral to social relations found in subculture/counterculture, pornography, popular protest and media images of women. In this way the module explores the society we live in beyond the boundaries established by crime and law.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 294: Age Studies

15 Credits | Semester 2

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.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 296: Understanding Violence

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module will provide students with a critical introduction to sociological perspectives on violence. Different conceptual appreciations of violence will be presented and students will be expected to interrogate what is considered 'violent', the contexts in which violence occurs, who is assumed to engage in violence and who becomes a victim of it. Students will also be encouraged to critically consider where violence is said to occur the most, where it is obscured from view and how violence impacts upon society.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Group Presentation

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# Final Year

In Year Three, students may choose from a range of optional modules based on the research and teaching interests of the School's academic staff. Study specialist subjects in-depth: analyse the role of class and how it manifests in our everyday lives, examine the relationship between architecture and power, or scrutinise the place of risk in the modern world and the social impact of managing security. The School offers a wide range of optional modules, a selection of which are below.

Please note that timetabling considerations, research leave cycles, and subject prerequisites mean that the optional modules may vary from year to year. You should check the School's website to see the range of modules currently on offer.

## SOCI 301: Dissertation

*Pre-requisites: SOCI247 & SOCI248*

30 Credits | Whole session

*Mandatory for all Sociology pathways and Criminology 100% & 75%*

*You can choose either SOCI301 or SOCI303 or SOCI311 you cannot chose them together. Select can select these modules only if you have taken both SOCI247 and SOCI248 in your second year.*

Running across two semesters, the dissertation is a major part of the final year of study and completes their "apprenticeship" in social science. It allows students to revisit, consolidate and apply what they have learnt in the course of their degree studies by focusing in on an independent research project of their own choosing and which they must systematically complete and present as an original social science dissertation.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

## SOCI 303: Interchange Portfolio: Work-based Learning

*Pre-requisites: SOCI247 & SOCI248*

30 Credits | Whole session

*Mandatory for all Sociology pathways and Criminology 100% & 75%*

*You can choose either SOCI301 or SOCI303 or SOCI311 you cannot chose them together. Select can select these modules only if you have taken both SOCI247 and SOCI248 in your second year.*

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.

**Assessment Type:** (60%, 40%) Coursework

## SOCI 307: Health, Life Course and 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 life course.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework



## SOCI 308: Gender and Crime

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.

**Assessment Type:** (60%, 40%) Coursework

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## SOCI 311: Short Interchange Project

15 Credits | Semester 1

*Pre-requisites: SOCI247 & SOCI248*

*Mandatory for all Sociology pathways and Criminology 100% & 75%*

*You can choose either SOCI301 or SOCI303 or SOCI311 you cannot chose them together. Select can select these modules only if you have taken both SOCI247 and SOCI248 in your second year.*

The module gives you the opportunity to engage in an in-depth investigation of benefit to a local Voluntary Community Organisation (VCO). This module may involve use of anonymised secondary data analysis, or literature review, or policy analysis, and does not involve the collection of new data. The engagement with the VCO is organised through the charity Interchange, based in the SLSJ.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 315: Gender, the Body and Identity

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module introduces students to key issues in contemporary feminist theory. Centering 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.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 319: Victimology: Theory and Method

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module explores the sub-discipline victimology. In doing so, it provides an insight into its historical origins, its pertinent developments over time, and contemporary advances in relation to theory, policy, methods and conceptual thinking regarding the notion of the 'victim'. The module presents four major pillars in victimological work, namely: positivist, feminist, critical and radical approaches, in addition to more recent 'cultural' developments within contemporary victimological scholarship and research. Students will be encouraged to think critically, conceptually and methodologically about how studying 'victims', victimisation and victimhood might be thoughtfully undertaken and achieved.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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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.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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### SOCI 321: Corporate Crime, Law and Power

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module explores the phenomenon of corporate crime in historical and contemporary contexts. It does so by exploring the ways in which the law acts as a key source of the power to commit corporate crimes that victimise workers, consumers, communities and the eco-system. This course will explore the development of the corporation as a key institution in capitalist societies and the ways in which the law supports the corporation and can provide a structure of impunity for corporate crimes.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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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 (particularly within England and Wales) 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.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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### SOCI 325: Politics, Society and the State: Classic and Contemporary Ethnographies

15 Credits | Semester 1

The overall aim of this module is to explore how particular ways of doing ethnography help us to analyse politics, policy, government and the state as social phenomena. Rather than provide a single 'tool kit', the lectures will highlight the diversity of ethnographic techniques and analytical practices that researchers actually employ. Based on this, and along with the small-scale exercise in observational fieldwork, the module provides ideas about how we might pursue politics and political actors through society for ourselves and in a variety of ways.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 327: Politics, Society and the State: Classic and Contemporary Ethnographies

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module considers the links between the rise of urban forms of living, economic change, and the place of 'culture' within society. It asks questions such as why cities are at the heart of cultural development, why culture is seen by some as having a role to play in dealing with urban social problems, how the nature of cultural expression changes as dominant economic forms change, whether cultural and economic values are really opposed, what the role of culture is in a 'new economy', and how governments seek to intervene in this area.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 331: Critical Perspectives in Desistance from Crime

*Pre-requisites: SOCI107, SOCI 108, SOCI244 & SOCI254*

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module provides an introduction to the study of desistance from crime with a particular focus on critical approaches and new developments in the field. Using a range of teaching, learning and assessment methods this module will equip students with knowledge and skills which will enable the consideration of key issues in desistance research and the impact on policy and practice from an informed and critical perspective. The aim will be to challenge the more traditional theory, research, policy and practice in this area and examine new and emergent areas of study that advocate for an approach that looks beyond the criminal justice system for reducing re-offending. Upon completing the module, students should have a solid understanding of desistance theory, new empirical developments, the role of punishment and resettlement in desistance from crime, issues around gender and the ability to critically interpret desistance research and the impact it has had on both policy and practice.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Practical Assessment

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## SOCI 332: Gender and the Welfare State

15 Credits | Semester 1

The course investigates the different ways in which gender is incorporated into national welfare states and the impact of national structures on the patterns and prevalence's of gender inequalities. The course covers the theory and methodology of comparative studies and their applicability to the analysis of gender, especially how well existing typologies of welfare states fare when gender is the focus of analysis. A number of key patterns of inequality and policy areas will be studied and we will look at the political economy of neoliberalisation and austerity and its effect on gendered welfare state provision. By looking at these aspects of welfare states students will be encouraged to contrast approaches of different welfare systems and consider the particularism of national approaches.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 335: Class and Everyday 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 explores 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.

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Assess the continued relevance of the role of class analysis within social theory and social life
- Analyse the phenomenological and material experiences of class and problems of structure and agency in theory and analysis
- Use class as a critical lens to explore various aspects of social life and investigate its empirical manifestations

Assessment Type: (90%, 10%) Coursework

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## SOCI 337: Alcohol, Crime and Society

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module seeks to enable students with a deeper critical understanding of societal issues concerning alcohol and crime, and to appraise how social policy has been developed to try to alleviate them. Students will look at how issues of alcohol consumption and associated criminal behaviour are socially constructed. Through these understandings, students will develop their own knowledge as to how policy responses to such 'problems' are interpreted and translated into practice. Students will be encouraged to consider how some people's drinking is disproportionately framed as problematic, with reference to age, gender and class, as well as consider the spatial distribution of alcohol-related crime/violence/harm and links to wider social-structural processes. Due attention will be given to a range of criminological and multi-disciplinary perspectives in the lectures.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 339: Drugs, Crime and Society

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module seeks to enable students to develop a deeper critical understanding of societal issues concerning illegal drugs and crime, and to appraise how policy and practice have developed to try to alleviate them. Students will look at how issues of drug use, supply and associated criminal behaviour are socially constructed. Through these understandings, students will develop their own knowledge as to how policy responses to such 'problems' are interpreted and translated into practice. Students will be encouraged to consider how some people's drug use is disproportionately framed as problematic, with reference to age, gender and class, as well as consider the spatial distribution of drug-related crime, violence, harm and links to wider social-structural processes. Due attention will be given to a range of criminological and multi-disciplinary perspectives in this module.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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## SOCI 340: Cultural Criminology

15 Credits | Semester 1

Culture, or the 'symbolic environment' in and through which individuals and groups make sense of their being, their actions, and the social and material world, shapes our understandings of crime and its control. Definitions and meanings of crime and transgression are constantly negotiated, and contested, in everyday life, global politics and media. In this module, students will engage with the interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological approaches of cultural criminology. Students will explore how transgression and control are intertwined with various cultural phenomena and processes of meaning-making in order to develop an understanding of crime as a culturally mediated concept. Module topics include (virtual) subcultures, media representation in a multi-mediated age, consumerism, cultural and political resistance, green cultural criminology and feminist cultural criminology.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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## 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.

**Assessment Type:** (60%, 40%) Coursework

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## SOCI 344: Global Environmental Crimes and Justice

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module looks at how criminology has tried to understand the effects on crime and criminal justice of climate change and other processes of social change associated environmental insecurity. The module will provide a comprehensive introduction to, and look in detail at, crimes which harm the environment, and which can be committed, organized or coordinated across national borders, involving groups or networks of individuals working in or than one country. The module will also explore the global effort to prevent such crimes, together with the challenges of applying ordinary instruments of criminal justice to environmental matters. Here, specific examples will include: Illegal logging and deforestation, illegal undeclared and unregulated fishing or depletion of fish species which are endangered; illegal dumping of toxic waste, especially in the developing countries; Illegal Transboundary waste shipment; Toxic waste and pollution; Money laundering and transfer of the proceeds of environmental crimes; poaching and trade in wildlife species and wildlife parts, criminological environmental theories; UN Conventions, protocols and offices related to the environment, among other things.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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**SOCI 345: Military, Militarism, Identity and Place**  
15 Credits | Semester 1

*Pre-requisites: SOCI248*

Taking the UK context as its focus this module explores ways to think critically about the role of military institutions and estates, and their associated values, identities and practices, as they are found influencing and impacting upon everyday public life.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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**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

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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**SOCI 348: Documentary Photography as Social Research**  
15 Credits | Semester 1

Photography is becoming increasingly popular amongst the social sciences. Although some disciplines like Anthropology and Geography have long made use of photography as an integral part of the research process, others like Sociology and Criminology are relatively new to the method. In this module students will examine how photography, particularly documentary photography, has been and can be used to understand, analyse, illustrate and communicate the social world. By looking at work by both practitioners and scholars, as well as various theories surrounding the photograph, students will develop a visual literacy and methodology to include within their research and practice repertoire.

**Assessment Type:** (60%, 40%) Coursework

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**SOCI 349: Crime, Justice and the Sex Industry**  
15 Credits | Semester 1

This module aims to critically explore the concept of the 'sex industry' and will examine policy, policing of sex work, stigma, and the global sex worker rights movement.

**Assessment Type:** 100% Coursework

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### SOCI 352: Deaths, Spirits and Spirituality

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module looks at the sociology of death and spirituality. In the first part of the module, rather than seeing death as simply a biological process, we unpack the various social processes and forces that influence how we see, understand, experience and cope with death. In the second part, we look at how groups and individuals engage with, imagine and construct relationships with spirits. From conversations with the dead in spiritualist churches, to faith healing, to Chinese spirit mediums and Hungry Ghosts, students will take a global perspective on the socio-spiritual world.

Assessment Type: (60%, 40%) Coursework

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### SOCI 369: Community and Public Involvement in Crime and Criminal Justice

15 Credits | Semester 2

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 and independent study.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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### SOCI 372: Architecture and Power: Parliaments, Prisons, Courts

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module is based around a comprehensive introduction to social studies of architecture and focuses on analysis of the architectural spaces of parliaments, prisons, and courts. Introducing sociological frameworks for understanding the relationship between states, architecture and power, the module addresses these three types of political architecture, including as they are put to practical use.

Assessment Type: (60%, 40%) Coursework

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