



Sociology examines the way in which individuals, groups and organisations relate to each other in a complex social world. From the micro level of families, to global mass media, sociology analyses the ways in which people have developed systems for communication, work, living, faith, culture and leisure.

Level 4 modules aim to provide a thorough grounding in the conceptual and practical foundations of sociology. A variety of perspectives is used to interpret society and the lives of individuals.

Level 5 modules are at intermediate level and are designed to develop understanding of social theory and consider societies from a global perspective. Level 6 modules explore the different ways in which sociology is applied in real world settings.

As this subject is interdisciplinary in nature, please note that there are related modules available in other subject areas as well. For example, in Criminology there is *CM5021 Crime, Media and Culture* and *CM6028 Risk, Crime and Justice*. In Human Rights, there are several PO modules.

**Updated April 2025/PJW**

**Entry requirements:** GPA of 2.75 or above (out of 4.0) or equivalent

**Pre-requisites:**

- There are no formal pre-requisites for Level 4 modules.
- Level 5 and 6 modules are more specialised and require evidence of successful completion of study in sociology or related fields (e.g. criminology, politics)

**Taught at:** Penrhyn Road Campus

**Key to Module Descriptors**

**Suitability of Modules for Students on Study Option:**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 1 (Whole Year) |
| <b>2</b> | Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 2 (Autumn)     |
| <b>3</b> | Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 3 (Spring)     |

**Notes:**

1. All modules are at undergraduate level only.

Study Option 1 = Whole Year  
Study Option 2 = Autumn  
Study Option 3 = Spring

1 The University makes every effort to ensure that module availability & content is correct at the time of publishing, but it cannot accept responsibility for subsequent changes, as part of the University's policy of continuous improvement & development.

2. Students enrolled on Study Option 1 are required to study the entire module.
3. Whilst the University makes every effort to ensure that this information is correct at the time of updating (March 2025), it cannot accept responsibility for omissions or subsequent changes. Module availability and content may be subject to change, as part of the University's policy of continuous improvement and development.
4. Details of assessment for students enrolled on either Study Option 2 or 3 where provided are indicative only and may also be subject to change as part of the above policy.

Level	Module Code	Title	Suitability <a href="#">Key</a>
4	<a href="#">SO4006</a>	Introduction to Research Methods	1
5	<a href="#">SO5014</a>	Social Justice and Social Movements	1, 2, 3
6	<a href="#">SO6034</a>	Social Issues	1, 2, 3

## LEVEL 4 – INTRODUCTORY

Study Option 1 = Whole Year  
Study Option 2 = Autumn  
Study Option 3 = Spring

2 The University makes every effort to ensure that module availability & content is correct at the time of publishing, but it cannot accept responsibility for subsequent changes, as part of the University's policy of continuous improvement & development.

**Module Code: SO4006**

**Module Title: Introduction to Research Methods**

**Credits:** Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)

**Level:** 4

**Prerequisites:** none

**Suitability:** Study Option 1 only

**Content:**

This module will focus attention on how researchers have utilised a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods to develop attentiveness to everyday life and how lives are lived at the junctures of self, family, culture and social worlds. This module aims to ground understandings of social life through practical application of methods and data analysis.

Students will gain hands-on experience of research skills throughout the module that can be applied to future study and employability. In order to facilitate the development of sought-after graduate attributes, students will also participate in an Assessment Centre simulation.

**Topics:**

➤ **Ethics**

- Ethics in Doing Research
- Understanding Our Place in the Field

➤ **Introduction to Data Collection**

- Ethnography: Observing Everyday Life
- Interviews: Exploring People's Food Practices
- Visual Texts, Visual Life
- Focus Groups: What Does Talking in a Group Reveal?

➤ **Data Analysis**

- Coding: Making Sense of Interview Data

Study Option 1 = Whole Year  
Study Option 2 = Autumn  
Study Option 3 = Spring

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**Teaching:** 3-hour weekly lecture/workshops

**Assessment:**

- Research Assignment Part I: qualitative data collection & analysis – 1,100 words (40%)
- Research Assignment Part II: quantitative data analysis (40%)
- 800-word careers reflection (20%)

**Last updated:** 12/04/25 PJW

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## LEVEL 5 – INTERMEDIATE

**Module Code:** SO5014

**Module Title:** Social Justice and Social Movements

**Credits:**

- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

**Level:** 5

**Prerequisites:** introductory university-level study in criminology/sociology

**Suitability:** Study Options 1 or 2 or 3

**Content:**

Sociology as a discipline emerged in response to the challenges of social life in industrial cities of the 19th century: to the disruption, mobility and displacement caused by industrialisation, urbanisation and imperialism; the growth in inequalities, the challenges to traditional notions of social order, authority and gender roles caused by the rise of new social classes and the spread of mass literacy, and to the racialisation and segregation of society. From the start then, it was concerned with social justice as well as social order. Furthermore, sociology's founders (e.g. Marx, DuBois) were concerned not just with understanding these challenges, but with how to address them to improve people's lives – and hence with how to change the world - and this has continued to be a central strand in the development of critical sociology.

So, how people gather and mobilise to work for change - and the social movements they form, from the anti-slavery movement and campaigns for women's emancipation to Marxist revolutionaries - have also been

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Study Option 2 = Autumn  
Study Option 3 = Spring

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central to the development of critical sociology. Therefore, this module will draw on a range of sociological resources - from Engels to Castells - to address the double role that sociology has inherited from its origins: not just to understand the world, but to try to change it.

The ideas of leading sociologists will be explored within the context of the city as a strategic unit of analysis in order to understand how industrialisation and the subsequent onset of postmodernity and post-industrialism impact on equality, participation and social inclusion. Through an analysis of the role of changing media environments in shaping social relations, we will investigate who gets to speak and who gets heard, and hence shape possibilities for social change.

➤ **Topics (indicative):**

➤ **Autumn:**

- Social Justice: Moral Dilemmas and Approaches
- Theories of Justice I: Utilitarianism
- Theories of Justice II: Libertarianism
- Theories of Social Movements: Manuel Castells
- The Civil Rights Movement & Affirmative Action
- Market Economy vs. Social Justice
- Occupy Wall Street
- Social Movements against Consumerism & Extractive Colonialisms
- Justice and Global Climate Change: Against Green Authoritarianism
- The Arab Uprisings
- Networked Social Movements & Political Change

➤ **Spring:**

- Movements for Change: creative approaches
- Researching Movements for Change:
- Languages of Protest and Change: Concepts & Case Studies (Space & the City)
- Languages of Protest and Change: Concepts & Theories
- Languages of Protest & Change: Embedding Social Justice
- Art and social change

**Teaching:** 3-hour weekly lectures and workshops

**Assessment:**

Study Option 1:

- 2,000-word essay (50%)
- 2,000-word essay (50%)

Study Options **2/3**:

- 2,000-word essay (100%)

12/04/25 **Last updated:** 12/04/25 PJW

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## LEVEL 6 – ADVANCED

**Module Code:** SO6034

**Module Title:** Social Issues

**Credits:**

- Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
- Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

**Level:** 6

**Prerequisites:** *Substantial* prior study of sociology/criminology at university level

**Suitability:** Study Options **1** and **2** and **3**

Study Option 1 = Whole Year  
Study Option 2 = Autumn  
Study Option 3 = Spring

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**Content:**

This module will explore social issues across three areas of sociology, closely aligned with expertise within the Department of Criminology, Politics and Sociology such as gender identity and intersectionality; health inequalities and socio-political responses to pandemics such as COVID-19; climate change and environmental activism. The module content will change every year to reflect current research being undertaken in the department and pressing concerns in society more broadly. Given this focus on current affairs, students will be asked to debate (often controversial) social issues, reflect on the impact and effect of government policy, and makes sense of social inequalities, structures and institutions. In doing so, the module asks students to engage with sociological theory and debates across the social sciences, to critically assess these social issues and to understand them at an academic level.

➤ **Topics (indicative):**

➤ **Autumn:**

- Introduction: Dealing with Complex issues in a Complex Society: Putting Social Knowledge in Action
- Co-creating the City: Participatory Planning, Citizen-led regeneration and Healthy Communities
- Sustainable Cities: Climate Change, the Anthropocene, Global Inequality and the City
- Social Issues, Policy and Stake Holder Engagement: Inclusive Policy Making
- Healthy Streets Approach
- Housing crisis and affordability
- "Rhodes Must Fall": Difficult and Contested Heritage, Race and Decolonisation
- Gender and Sexuality in the "Culture Wars"
- Identity Construction and Othering

➤ **Spring:**

- Intersectionality, Privilege, and Inequality
- Medical Discourse and Deviance
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Public Health Campaigns
- The Politics of Pandemics (and Assignment 2 Guidance)
- Does Gender Matter?
- Gender, Family and The Home
- Gender: Love and Dating
- Gender, the Media and Representation
- Gender, Leadership & Employment

**Teaching:** weekly 3-hour workshop

Study Option 1 = Whole Year  
Study Option 2 = Autumn  
Study Option 3 = Spring

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**Assessment:**

**Study Option 1:**

- 2,500-word policy proposal (50%)
- 2,500-word critical reflection (50%)

**Study Option 2:**

- 2,500-word policy proposal (100%)

**Study Option 3:**

- 2,500-word critical reflection

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Study Option 1 = Whole Year  
Study Option 2 = Autumn  
Study Option 3 = Spring

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