Kingston University London

Sociology Modules for Visiting Students 2024/25

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 *CM5019 Crime on Screen* and *CM6019 Risk and Crime.* In Human Rights, there are several PO modules.

Updated March 2024/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:
1 Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 1 (Whole Year)
2 Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 2 (Autumn)
3 Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 3 (Spring)

Notes:
1. All modules are at undergraduate level only.

Sociology Modules for Visiting Students 2024/25

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 2024), 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 continuousimprovement 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 Key
4	SO4003	Social Selves	1, 2
4	SO4006	Introduction to Research Methods	1
4	SO4007	Classical Social Theory in a Contemporary World	1, 2, 3
5	SO5009	Researching Race and Ethnicity	1
5	SO5014	Social Justice and Social Movements	1, 2, 3
6	SO6036	Migration in a Global Context	1, 3

LEVEL 4 – INTRODUCTORY

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

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Module Code	SO4003
Module Title	**Social Selves**
Credits	• Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS) • Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)
Level	4
Prerequisites	None
Suitability	Study Options 1 or 2
Content	This module introduces students to some of the most influential ways of thinking about self and identity sociology and psychology. It deals with key dimensions of identity in contemporary life such as gender; work; sexuality; race; ethnicity; understandings of mental health; connections with places such as nations, cities and the globalised world; spirituality and religion. It explores the inseparable interweaving of society and the psyche; the psychological and the socio-political; collective forces and universal human drives. It places the ongoing process of constructing the self in the foreground in attempts to understand people's behaviour and development more generally. The very notion of the 'self' is treated as an interactive, social phenomenon. The first part of the module considers the questions such as 'what is the self?' and 'how does the self arise?' The second part goes on to focus on a number of social dimensions which pattern selfhood. ➤ **Autumn Semester: Core Concepts** This section considers questions such as 'what is the self?' and 'how does the self arise?' and then goes on to explore the formation of selfhood in the modern era. The Section first examines how we construct the self in relation to other people and elaborates some of the consequences of this in terms of group formation, changes in identity and the role of material possessions. We also consider the extent which identity can be shaped by powerful groups and institutions; and the extent to which immediate and institutional social influences can repress or alienate us from an underlying 'real self.' In addition, this section considers the influence of two defining features of the modern era on selfhood: Enlightenment rationality and urbanisation. **Topics:** • Introducing 'Social Selves' • Symbolic Interactionism and the Self • The 'Social Identity' Approach: Social Identity Theory and Self-Categorisation Theory • Identity Threat and Identity Change: Introducing Identity Process Theory • Am I What I Own? Possessions, Identity and Impression Management

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

3

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- Psychoanalysis and the Self
- Self, Society and Power
- The Enlightened Self
- City, Society and Self
- Embodied Selves

➢ **Spring Semester: Social Dimensions of the Self**

This section of the module examines various examples of how selfhood is constructed in contemporary life. Processes of group identification as well as exclusion and stigmatisation are explored in relation to religious affiliation, mental health categorisation and work. Moreover we look at social structures which are so deeply embedded in our identities that we may take them for-granted: these involve attitudes to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity and nationality. We focus on how such attitudes affect the way we think of our bodies in understanding ourselves; and we consider the impact of globalisation on selfhood.

- Psychiatry and identity
- How Do Mental Health Problems Affect a Person's Identity?
- Individualisation and the Corrosion of Character
- Who Are We at Work? Occupational Identity
- The Gendered Self
- Sexual Selves
- Racialised Selves
- Post-Colonial Selves: Multiculturalism, Transculturalism and Diaspora
- Global Society and the Self
- Am I What I Own? Possessions, Identity and Impression Management

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

4

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Teaching	Weekly 1-hour lecture and 1-hour seminar
Assessment	Study Option **1**: • 20 minutes in-class test (30%) • Student engagement (10%) • 2-hour unseen exam (3 questions) (60%) Study Option **2**: • 1,250-word essay (70%) • 20 minutes in-class test (30%)
Last updated	24/03/24 PJW

Module Code	**SO4007**
Module Title	**Classical Social Theory in a Contemporary World**
Credits	• Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS) • Single Semester: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)
Level	4
Prerequisites	None
Suitability	Study Options 1 or 2 or 3
Content	The purpose of this module is to encourage students to think sociologically. The module will offers the theoretical grounding, needed to be sociologist, and it will encourage students to question and critique the world around you. Indeed, throughout the module you will be required to consider contemporary social issues in light of the works of key theorists. Though written over 100 years ago the works of Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Du Bois, Martineau, can help us perhaps better understand the changes and relationship that we see in our world today, and to help us unpick social problems and offer solutions. Topics covered include: ➢ **Autumn Semester: Classical Social Theory & Modernity; Capitalism, Class & Consumption; Ideology & Resistance**

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

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	• What is Social Theory? • Diversifying 'The Canon' - Modernity and Post-Colonialism • What makes us human? • What is class inequality? And does it still exist? • Alienation & Commodity Fetishism • Desire and Capitalism • Ideology & Representations • Lifting the Veil - Exploring Representations of Race • How can we challenge ideology and control? ➢ **Spring Semester: Community & Crisis; Identity & Performance; Rationalisation & Surveillance** • Belonging and Believing • The Science of Society and Suicide • What makes a society? And is social media making you miserable? • All the world's a stage • Performing Gender • Discipling Bodies • Do you want fries with that? Exploring theories of rationalisation & McDonaldisation • The Surveillance Society • Authority & Control
Teaching	3-hour weekly lectures/workshops
Assessment	Study Option **1**: • 800-word critical reflection (15%) • Group poster presentation (20%) • Two-hour seen exam (65%) Study Option **2**: • poster presentation (100%) Study Option **3**: • 1,500-word essay (100%)
Last updated	24/03/24 PJW

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

6

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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**

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

7

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	• Coding: Making Sense of Interview Data
Teaching	3-hour weekly lecture/workshops
Assessment	Study Option **1**: • 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	24/03/24 PJW

Return to top

LEVEL 5 – INTERMEDIATE

Module Code	**SO5009**
Module Title	**Researching Race and Ethnicity**
Credits	Full Year: 8 (US) 15 (ECTS)
Level	5
Prerequisites	Prior study of introductory sociology at university level
Suitability	Study Option 1 only
Content	This module focuses on historical and theoretical conceptualisations and methodological approaches to researching race and ethnicity in contemporary western society. Key questions that the module asks are: In what ways do the researcher and participants' racial and ethnic identities impact on the research process? In what ways are race and ethnicity shaped, and in turn shape, the experiences of class, gender, sexuality and religion? How do they intersect with other forms of social difference to affect relations of power and privilege? What are the ethical dilemmas of doing such research? How are different social contexts shaped by, and shape, race and ethnicity? What are the ways in which individuals, groups and communities challenge forms of racism in order to raise awareness and contribute to social change?

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

8

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Throughout the module students will work to expand their critical thinking and research skills, make meaningful connections between theoretical concepts and lived experience, and to better understand how experiences of race and ethnicity interact with broader social structures.

Topics:

➢ **Ethnicity, Race and Racism**

- Why Race and Ethnicity?
- Race and Empire
- Power, Place and Identity
- Islamophobia and the Racialisation of Religion
- From Institutional Racism to the Hostile Environment
- From Institutional Racism to the Politics of Representation
- Sociologies of Whiteness

➢ **Introduction to Intersectionality**

- Racial and Ethnic Subjectivities
- It's Not Just About Race: Intersectional Analyses
- Race and Ethnicity - Shifting Categories
- From Institutional Racism to the Politics of Representation

➢ **Lived Experience**

- Racial and Ethnic Subjectivities
- Visualising Race and Ethnicity
- Race, Ethnicity and Beauty
- Race and Ethnicity - Shifting Categories
- Power, Place and Identity
- Islamophobia and the Racialisation of Religion

Teaching	Weekly 3-hour workshops
Assessment	Study Option **1**: • Critical Reflection – 1000 words (30%) • Research Project – 3000 words (70%)
Last updated	24/03/24 PJW

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

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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 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
- The *Indignados* Movement in Spain
- Justice and Global Climate Change: Against Green Authoritarianism
- The Arab Uprisings
- Networked Social Movements & Political Change

➤ **Spring:**

- Movements for Change: What is Social Justice?
- Industrialisation, Modernisation & Urbanisation
- Black Lives Matter
- Feminism & Intersectionality
- Bureaucracy & Violence: The Banality of Evil
- LGBTQ+ Pride: Party or Protest?
- The Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong
- Extinction Rebellion & School Strike for Climate
- Gentrification, urban movements and participation

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Teaching	3-hour weekly lectures and workshops
Assessment	Study Option **1**: • 1,000-word essay (30%) • Reflection on documentary (500 words) (10%) • 2,000-word essay (60%)
	Study Option **2**: • 1,000-word essay (70%) • Reflection on documentary (500 words) (30%)
	Study Option **3**: • 2,000-word essay (100%)
Last updated	24/03/24 PJW

Return to top

LEVEL 6 – ADVANCED

Sociology Modules for Visiting Students 2024/25

Module Code	**SO6036**
Module Title	**Migration in a Global Context**
Credits	4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)
Level	6
Prerequisites	*Substantial* prior study of sociology at university level
Suitability	Note that this module is taught entirely within the spring semester and is thus open for Study Options **1** or **3**
Content	International migration has become a contentious political topic with far-reaching consequences for contemporary societies, and arguably for established sociological paradigms (e.g. methodological nationalism). The module will equip students to understand and investigate in-depth the social dynamics of migration and its consequences and enable them to offer informed and critical comments on contemporary debates (e.g. media coverage of migration, on the economics of migration, and on migration's consequences for social solidarity). It is organized to reflect on the social issues such as social mobility, poverty, gender and education, inequality, and citizenship as they relate to different types of international mobility, and to explore fundamental consequences of migration for shaping social relations at local and global levels. This module will introduce students to current trends in migration flows, to the different types of human mobility and the dynamics behind them, and to governments' responses to the social, political, and legal challenges raised by international migration. In addition, students will have the opportunity to develop their own professional thinking in this field.
Teaching	Weekly 3-hour workshop
Assessment	• Two 1250-word essays (50% each)
Last updated	24/03/24 PJW

[Return to top](#)

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