



Sociology

Is this course for me?

This course will appeal to those students who:

- Take an interest in people and have an interest in the society in which they live
- Enjoy discussing and reflecting upon their own lives
- Would like to do a subject which offers varied career opportunities.

Units of Study

Education

- ◆ The role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- ◆ Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
- ◆ Relationships and processes within schools
- ◆ The significance of educational policies including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education;

Families and Households

- ◆ The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with reference to the economy and to state policies
- ◆ Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures
- ◆ Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- ◆ The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children
- ◆ Demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy.

Beliefs in Society

- ◆ Ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions
- ◆ The relationship between social change and social stability, and religious beliefs, practices and organisations
- ◆ Religious organisations and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice
- ◆ The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices
- ◆ The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation

Theory and Methods

- ◆ Quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design, sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics
- ◆ The relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods
- ◆ The relationship between theory and methods

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

- ◆ Crime, deviance, social order and social control
- ◆ The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class,
- ◆ Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes
- ◆ Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system.

Entry Requirements

Level 6 or above in GCSE English in order to cope with the written requirements of the course.

What will this course prepare me for?

Students with A-Level in Sociology have access to a wide range of possible careers. The nature of this subject makes the student an ideal candidate at all levels of communication, working with others and improving their own methods of learning. This course could prepare students for careers in Social Services, Teaching, Media, Personnel and the Services.