

# Sociology BA (Hons)

This is your Welcome Pack and provides you with an indication of the content of the Programme and the preparation that you can undertake before starting your Sociology Degree Programme.

## Course Overview

Sociology is the systematic study of people in society. If you are interested in people and the way they behave together, then Sociology is the subject for you. Sociologists study social life and social change. They also study the causes and consequences of the way in which people behave. Sociologists are concerned with social problems, social rights, social responsibilities and social needs. They also study organisations and institutions on local, national and global levels – such as workplaces, universities, gangs, schools, and health services. Sociologists show that while social life is complex, it is comprehensible (i.e. it can be understood and explained). Because Sociology addresses some of the most challenging and pertinent issues of our time it is a constantly and rapidly expanding subject, whose potential is increasingly recognised by politicians, policy-makers, the media, and wider society.

One of the most distinctive features of Sociology is that it is not simply concerned with understanding and exploring social phenomena; it is also interested in finding answers to social problems. Sociological study challenges many so-called 'common sense' assumptions and taken for granted ideas about everyday life. This leads to a more informed and better understanding of social relations, social values and social interactions. Sociologists become skilled at critical thinking and problem solving. This is one of the many reasons why employers are very interested in people with sociology degrees.

Sociology graduates from the University of Northampton follow a wide range of career pathways in, for example: primary and secondary education, research, the not-for-profit sector, media and journalism, social work, retail management, the military, marketing and PR. The current economic climate, combined with a large number of graduates means that the graduate jobs market is highly competitive at the moment. We work to enhance your employability skills whilst studying with us at the University of Northampton so that you are better prepared to secure graduate level employment.

## Aims

- To introduce students to a variety of sociological perspectives through an exploration of diverse social structures, institutions and processes, thus enabling students to appreciate the distinctive contribution sociologists make to an understanding and exploration of social phenomena;
- To develop students' critical understanding of, and ability to apply a range of theoretical approaches and methodologies, and thus enable students to recognize the essentially contested nature of the conclusions which are reached;
- To provide a coherent framework within which flexibility and specialization is facilitated;
- To encourage students to develop a sociological approach which is progressively more critical and analytical;
- To encourage an awareness of the possible policy implications of sociological knowledge;
- To demonstrate Sociology's intellectual relationship with other disciplines;
- To enable students to appreciate the significance of cultural diversity to understanding of social issues.

## General Course Structure

- **Year 1/Level 4:** Setting the Foundation. At level 4, the focus is on ensuring that you get to grips with a range of key sociological issues, theories and concepts.
- **Year 2/Level 5:** Applying Learning and Knowledge. At level 5, you will continue to engage with a range of key sociological issues, theories and concepts, but there will be a much greater emphasis on applying your knowledge to the 'real world'. You will be trained in social research methods, which will allow you to conduct your own research – in the context of a work placement setting and either in a group research project or an overseas field research trip.
- **Year 3/Level 6:** Independent Learning and Research. At level 6 you are required to complete a dissertation alongside one compulsory module and three optional modules. Each student is allocated a dissertation supervisor who will provide one-to-one supervision of the dissertation project, but ultimately, the dissertation is your opportunity to conduct a piece of independent research on a sociological issue that you are interested in.

### Year One/Level Four Module Options

Code	Title	Credits	Status	Pre-Requisites
SOC1073	Identity Formation and Social Change	20	Compulsory for BA & Joint	None
SOC1075	Social Inequalities and Difference	20	Compulsory for BA	None
SOC1074	The Sociological Imagination	40	Compulsory for BA & Joint	None
SOC1076	Gender and Society	20	Compulsory for BA	None
SOC1072	Media, Crime and Society	20	Compulsory for BA	None

### Reading for a Sociology Degree

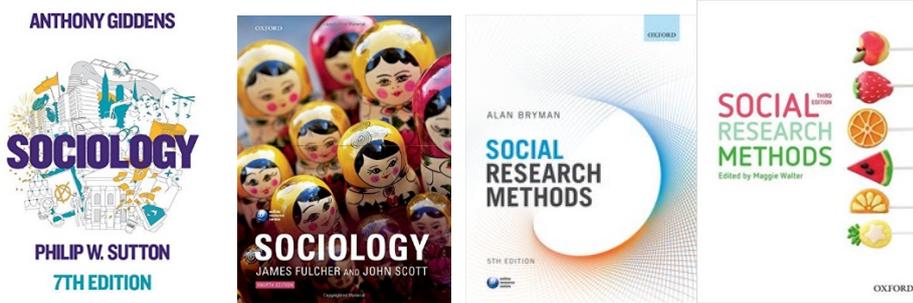
Whatever the subject, studying at degree level inevitably involves a great deal of reading. This is particularly important in Sociology and fortunately there is an enormous variety of sources which are accessible and informative. Every module will have its own reading list, and between each class you will normally be expected to read a chapter from a book, a journal article, or conduct some other kind of preparatory activity.

'Doing' Sociology involves more than just attending workshops (important as these are). It involves scouring newspapers for information on the issues you are covering, searching the Internet for useful websites, accessing academic journals, checking the library catalogue and consulting the reference lists provided in module guides. Some of your sociology modules will require you to purchase a textbook. This will provide general background reading for the module and will also be used for seminar work. You will find full details of the books you need in each modules' module guide.

## Year One Core Reading List

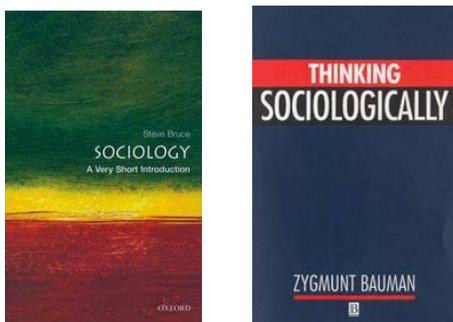
Below are a few examples of some general sociology and social research textbooks, as well as subject specific books available in the university library, but you should also consider reading for each first-year module to prepare for September.

### General Sociology Resources



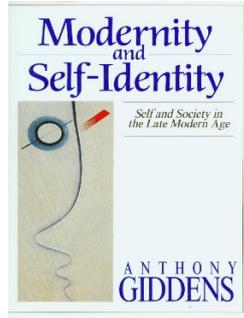
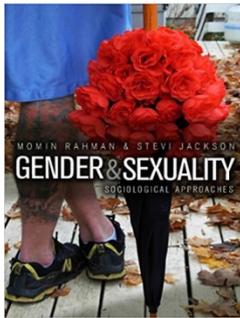
- Fulcher, J and Scott, J (2003), '**Sociology**', Oxford University Press
- Giddens, A. & Sutton, P. (2013) '**Sociology**' (7th edition). Polity Press: Cambridge.
- Bryman, A. (2016) '**Social Research Methods**': 5th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Walter, M. (2013) Social Research Methods (3rd Ed) Oxford University Press.

### SOC1074: The Sociological Imagination



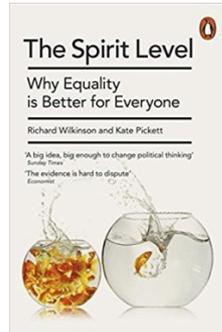
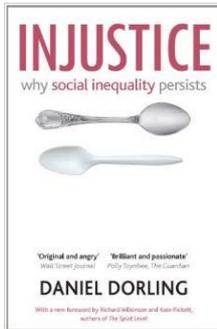
- Bauman, Z and May, T (2003), '**Thinking Sociologically**', Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford
- Bruce, S. (2000), '**Sociology A Very Short Introduction**', Oxford Paperbacks

**SOC1073: Identity Formation and Social Change**



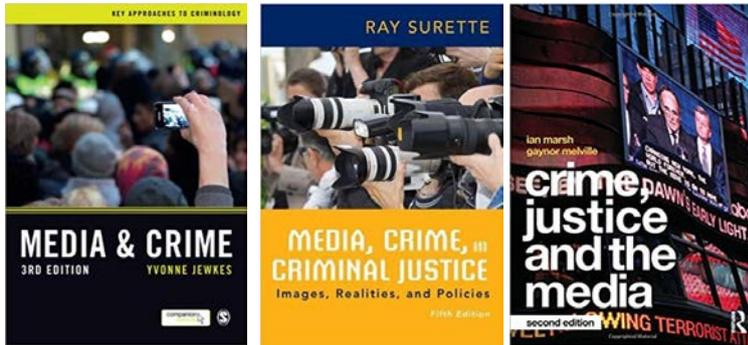
- Rahman, M. and Jackson, S. (2010), **'Sexuality and Gender: Sociological Approaches'**, Polity Press
- Giddens, A. (1991), **'Modernity and self-identity'**, Cambridge: Polity

**SOC1075: Social Inequalities and Difference**



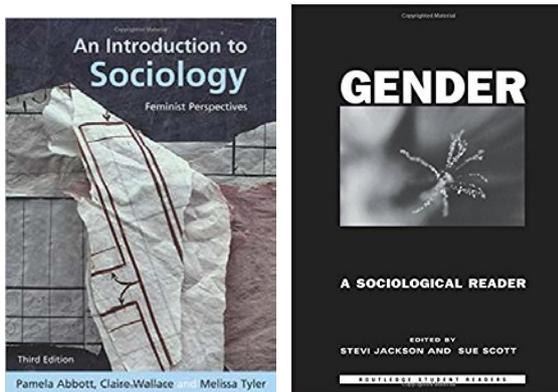
- Dorling, D. (2015), **'Injustice: Why Social Inequality Still Persists'**, Policy Press, Bristol
- Wilkinson, R. and Pickett, K. (2010), **'The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone'**, Penguin

## SOC1072: Media, Crime and Society



- Jewkes, Y. (2015), '*Media & Crime (Key Approaches to Criminology)*', Sage, London
- Marsh, I. and Melville, G. (2014), '*Crime, Justice and the Media*', Routledge, New York
- Surette, R. (2014), '*Media, Crime, and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities, and Policies (5th edition)*', Cengage learning, Wadsworth

## SOC1075: Gender and Society



Abbott, P., Tyler, M., & Wallace, C. (2005) '*An Introduction to Sociology: Feminist Perspectives*' (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). London: Routledge

Jackson, S. & Scott, S. (2002) '*Gender: A Sociological Reader*', London: Routledge

## Any Questions

There's a lot to look forward to at university, and we hope you find this Welcome Pack useful. If there's any aspect of the Sociology programme which you'd like to know more about, please contact us and we'll be happy to provide more information.

Best wishes,

The Sociology Team

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