

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Department for Social Science and Humanities
Programme:	Year 1 Programme
FHEQ Level:	3
Course Title:	Fundamentals of Sociology
Course Code:	SOCL 3101
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS CATS credits 4 UK credits

Course Description:

This course provides the foundations of studying societies in a global context. It explores a range of sociological approaches from the micro-level of social identities and interactions to the macro-level of structures and processes. It introduces key theoretical frameworks to consider ways in which societies are maintained and changed, and how central social institutions like family, school, work, and media reinforce and challenge the status quo. Students will learn elements of social research and how sociologists investigate pressing issues, such as stigma and deviance, gender socialisation and racialisation, growing up online, and impacts of globalisation, technology, and climate change.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

The course provides an overview of the main theoretical perspectives of sociology and evaluates their relevance in analysing the global society. The objective of the course is to equip students with the ability to use sociology as a tool to understand the society of today – how it differs from previous social formations and what challenges it is likely to face in the near future.

Programme Outcomes:

A3I

Demonstrate foundational and fundamental knowledge and understanding in basic theories and methods in the discipline.

B3I

Demonstrate fundamental and foundational understanding of the key issues of and core methods in the discipline.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to demonstrate:

- Awareness and understanding of fundamental sociological concepts.
- Development of a basic understanding of the ideas of 'classical' sociological theorists.
- Development of a critical approach to the subject, and a broader sense of one's cultural attitudes and assumptions.
- Ability to evaluate differing sociological perspectives' approach to a range of social issues and social institutions.
- Awareness of key elements of globalization processes and their impact of intercultural issues.
- Understands basic methods used in sociology.
- Understand the impact of new and emerging media technologies on society.

Indicative Content:

- Introductory sociological theory (e.g. conflict, structural-functionalism, symbolic interactionism, feminist, post-colonial)
- Introductory sociological method (e.g. empirical/positivist, interpretative)
- Socialisation and social institutions (e.g. family, school, work, media)
- Social Stratification, sanctions, and stigmatisation

- Gender, racialisation, class
- Diversity and difference (e.g. culture, religion, ethnicity)
- Globalization Social transformation (e.g. structures, agency, social movements)

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

Ballantine, J. H. and Korgen, K.O. (2022) *Our Social World: Introduction to Sociology*. 8th edn. USA: Sage.

Conerly, T.R., Holmes, K. and Lal Tamang, A. (2021) *Introduction to sociology*. 3rd edn. Houston, TX: RICE University.

Cuff E.C et al (2016) *Perspectives in Sociology*. 6th edn. London: Routledge.

Giddens, A. and Sutton, P. (2021) *Sociology*. 9th edn. UK: Polity.

Ritzer, G. and Ryan, J. M. (2023) *Introduction to Sociology*. 6th edn. USA: Sage.

Journals

Sociology.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First Edition	Nov 2024	
Updated Programme and course title	Feb 2025	