

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	BA (Hons) Sociology
2	Course Code	US0689
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	

6	Course Description
	<p>Our BA (Hons) Sociology degree is a radical and practical course, helping us make sense of the world and our place within it (both locally and globally).</p> <p>Why do racial inequalities persist in education and employment? What's the human cost of your matcha latte? Will AI replace human friendships one day, and does it matter? Studying Sociology at Birmingham City University will equip you with the theoretical and methodological tools to help investigate questions like these; complex questions that require serious reflection, critical analysis, and an engagement with evidence.</p> <p>You'll learn research methods, analyse real data, and be taught by instructors who are actively researching issues like inequality and social change—so you're learning from people discovering new things, not just teaching from textbooks. Birmingham itself becomes part of your education, with its diverse communities providing a living laboratory for understanding how society works.</p> <p>Through hands-on projects, optional placements with public and third sector organisations, and an in-depth final year project, you'll explore the areas of sociology that matter most to you. These experiences help you build professional networks while developing the practical skills employers value—data analysis, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of how society really works. You'll graduate with both the knowledge and connections to tackle some of society's biggest challenges.</p>

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Sociology	6	360
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Sociology with Professional Placement Year	6	480
7b			
	Certificate of Higher Education Sociology	4	120
	Diploma of Higher Education Sociology	5	240
	Bachelor of Arts Sociology	6	300
	Bachelor of Arts Sociology with Professional Placement Year	6	420

8	Variations from the University Regulations
	None.

9 Delivery Patterns			
Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time	City Centre	3 years	US0689
Part Time	City Centre	5 years	US0690
Full Time with Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement year)	4 years	US1407

10 Entry Requirements	
<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/, or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.</p>	

11 Course Aims	
	<p>This programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide you with knowledge and ability to apply sociological theory and research to social organisations and institutions (such as local and national government, educational establishments, charities, public and private sector organisations) • Develop the research skills needed to critically analyse and evaluate complex information • Develop an appreciation of the complexity and diversity of individuals, groups, communities and social and political institutions • Enhance your ability to develop opinions and new ideas, and to make reasoned, critical judgements and arguments • Provide skills to relate sociological knowledge to social and public policy • Recognise social and communicative skills to work collaboratively • Develop your ability to comprehend, assess and critically evaluate common understandings of the social world • Be committed to social inclusion and diversity • Develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of research skills, qualitative and quantitative methods, and forms of research analysis • Enhance the professional and personal skills required to organise work and meet deadlines • Enhance the technological skills and software packages • Exhibit excellent skills in oral, presentational, and written communication • Demonstrate a range of practical and creative problem-solving skills

12 Course Learning Outcomes	
	On completion of the degree, you will be able to: -
1	Identify the inherent interdisciplinary nature of sociology as a discipline and develop a proficiency of sociological theories, methods, themes and perspectives unique to sociology.
2	Develop a working knowledge of relevant political, economic, historical, and cultural factors and perspectives drawn on by sociologists when venturing to understand society as a whole.
3	Illustrate an understanding of crime and society recognising the importance of political, economic, cultural and historical interconnectedness at local, national, and international levels
4	Reflect on and identify proficiencies in relevant employability-related skills including but not limited to: disciplined oral and written communication, the production of well-structured written work and presentations, the use of software packages and other technology, and the collection,

	comprehension and analysis of a wide range of research and data to build a professional identity that can be drawn on in future graduate employment opportunities.
5	Build social and cognitive skills involving social collaboration and understanding, independence of judgement and argument, problem solving and personal commitment and responsibility.
6	Articulate an understanding of the discipline of sociology – through the programme’s core themes of social theory and research, culture, politics and space, and place - as being theoretically informed, evidence-based, relevant, professionally focussed and applied.
7	Synthesise ideas to show that you can make sense of a wide range of social institutions, social changes, and important social issues – such as poverty, crime, social class, racism, sexism and other forms of inequalities and discrimination – and can formulate ideas taken from a wide reading of sociology to generate workable solutions to contemporary social problems.
8	Apply an in-depth knowledge of sociological perspectives and methods, and their application to contemporary social issues pertaining to social identities and institutions, crime, place-based contexts and wider patterns of social change.
9	Construct a critical reflection on experiences of work and employability skills and their interactions with sociological thought.

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, you will be able to:</i>
1	Identify the inherent interdisciplinary nature of sociology and criminology as disciplines and develop a proficiency of sociological and criminology theories, methods, themes and perspectives unique to sociology and criminology.
2	Develop a working knowledge of relevant political, economic, historical, and cultural factors and perspectives drawn on by sociologists and criminologists when venturing to adequately understand society as a whole.
3	Illustrate an understanding of crime and society recognising the importance of political, economic, cultural and historical interconnectedness at local, national, and international levels
	<i>Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, you will be able to:</i>
4	Reflect on and identify proficiencies in relevant employability-related skills including but limited to: disciplined oral and written communication, the production of well-structured written work and presentations, the use of software packages and other technology, and the collection, comprehension and analysis of a wide range of research and data to build a professional identity that can be drawn on in future graduate employment opportunities.
5	Build social and cognitive skills involving social collaboration and understanding, independence of judgement and argument, problem solving and personal commitment and responsibility
6	Articulate an understanding of the disciplines of sociology and criminology – through the course’s core themes of social theory and research, culture, politics and space and place - as being theoretically informed, evidence-based, relevant, professionally focussed and applied
	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 6 / the Bachelors Degree, you will be able to:</i>
7	Synthesise ideas to show that you can make sense of a wide range of social institutions, social changes and important social issues – such as poverty, crime, social class, racism, sexism and other forms of inequalities and discrimination – and can formulate ideas taken from a wide reading of sociology and criminology to generate workable solutions to contemporary social problems
8	Apply an in-depth knowledge of sociological perspectives and methods, and their application to contemporary social issues pertaining to social identities and institutions, crime, place-based contexts and wider patterns of social change.
9	Construct a critical reflection on experiences of work and employability skills and their interactions with sociological thought

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p>Teaching and Learning Strategy</p> <p>You will engage with a range of teaching and learning strategies. The teaching and learning arrangements will vary module to module, contingent on the subject matter being addressed and mode of assessment. Some of the teaching and learning activities that you will engage in include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • Seminars • Workshops • Independent Learning (including reading and researching) • Online Activities (including group discussion forums, online videos etc.) <p>Assessment strategy</p> <p>You will be assessed via a variety of different modes of assessment; from coursework, to in-person assessments, to examinations. For the majority of the course, though, you will be required to complete a range of coursework assessments (e.g., essays, professional reports, research proposals, zine-making) and in-person assessments (e.g., individual presentations). There will be opportunities to receive informal and formal feedforward on assessments that enable you to develop your assessments. Individual feedback is also provided when assessments are returned to you. The focus of feedback is to help you develop your academic skills in preparation for future assessments.</p>

15	Course Requirements																																							
15a	<p>Level 4:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SOC4039</td> <td>Sociological Perspectives</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOC4026</td> <td>City, Community and Culture</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRI4046</td> <td>Crime, Punishment and Society</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOC4025</td> <td>Sociological Imagination</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOC4040</td> <td>Politics and Society</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOC4038</td> <td>Becoming a Social Researcher</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Level 5:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Module Code</th> <th>Module Name</th> <th>Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SOC5068</td> <td>Current Issues in Sociology</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOC5069</td> <td>Media and Popular Culture</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOC5067</td> <td>Race, Racism and Inequality</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOC5074</td> <td>Applied Sociological Research</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOC5044</td> <td>Contemporary Social Theory</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course you must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	SOC4039	Sociological Perspectives	20	SOC4026	City, Community and Culture	20	CRI4046	Crime, Punishment and Society	20	SOC4025	Sociological Imagination	20	SOC4040	Politics and Society	20	SOC4038	Becoming a Social Researcher	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	SOC5068	Current Issues in Sociology	20	SOC5069	Media and Popular Culture	20	SOC5067	Race, Racism and Inequality	20	SOC5074	Applied Sociological Research	20	SOC5044	Contemporary Social Theory	20
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Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
SOC5070	Space, Place and Society	20
SOC5058	Sociology Placement	20
SOC5076	Environmental Sociology and Social Justice	20

In order to qualify for the award of BA (Hons) Sociology with Professional Placement Year a student must successfully complete the following module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PLA5001	Professional Placement Year	120

Level 6:

In order to complete this course you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
SOC6052	Globalisation, Migration and Borders	20
SOC6036	Self, Identity and Society	20
SOC6041	Integrative Research Project	40

In order to complete this course you must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
SOC6032	Music and Society	20
SOC6037	Activism, Social Movements and Social Change	20
SOC6038	Black Arts Movement	20
SOC6053	Gender & Sexuality	20
SOC6050	Postcoloniality	20

15b Full-time Structure Diagram
Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Sociological Perspectives	Sociological Imagination
City, Community and Culture	Politics and Society
Crime, Punishment and Society	Becoming a Social Researcher

Level 5

Semester 1 (Core) Current Issues in Sociology Race, Racism and Inequality Media and Popular Culture	Semester 2 (Core) Applied Sociological Research Contemporary Social Theory
Optional Modules (Semester 2 only) Space, Place and Society Sociology Placement Environmental Sociology and Social Justice	

Level 6

Semester 1 (Core) Globalisation, Migration and Borders	Semester 2 (Core) Self, Identity and Society
Semester 1 (Optional Modules) Postcoloniality Gender & Sexuality	Semester 2 (Optional Modules) Music and Society Black Arts Movement Activism, Social Movements and Social Change
Semester One and Two Integrative Research Project	

Full Time with Professional Placement Year Course Structure
Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Sociological Perspectives	Sociological Imagination
City, Community and Culture	Politics and Society
Crime, Punishment and Society	Becoming a Social Researcher

Level 5

Semester 1 (Core) Race, Racism and Inequality Media and Popular Culture Current Issues in Sociology	Semester 2 (Core) Applied Sociological Research Contemporary Social Theory Race and Crime
Optional Modules (Semester 2 only) Space, Place and Society Sociology Placement Environmental Sociology and Social Justice	

Professional Placement Year (120 credits)
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Level 6

Semester 1 (Core) Globalisation, Migration and Borders	Semester 2 (Core) Self, Identity and Society
Semester 1 (Optional Modules) Postcoloniality Gender & Sexuality	Semester 2 (Optional Modules) Music and Society Black Arts Movement Activism, Social Movements and Social Change
Semester One and Two Integrative Research Project	

Part Time Course Structure
Year 1

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Sociological Perspectives (20 credits) Crime, Punishment and Society (20 credits)	Sociological Imagination (20 credits) Becoming a Social Researcher (20 credits)

Year 2

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO

City, Community and Culture (20 credits)	Politics and Society (20 credits)
Media and Popular Culture (20 credits)	Contemporary Social Theory (20 credits)

Year 3

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Race, Racism and Inequalities (20 credits)	Applied Sociological Research (20 credits)
Current Issues in Sociology (20 credits)	
Optional (Semester 2 only)	
Space, place and society	
Sociology Placement	
Environmental Sociology and Social Justice	

Year 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Globalisation, Migration and Borders (20 credits)	Self, Identity and Society (20 credits)
Optional	Optional
Postcoloniality (20 credits)	Music and Society (20 credits)
Gender & Sexuality (20 credits)	Black Arts Movement (20 credits)
	Activism, Social Movements and Social Change (20 credits)

Year 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Integrative Research Project (40 credits)	

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Level 4

Workload

18% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	214
Directed Learning	250
Private Study	736
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	90%
Exam	10%
In-Person	0%

Level 5

Workload

16% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	193
Directed Learning	340
Private Study	667
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	95%
Exam	0%
In-Person	5%

Level 6

Workload

12% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	140
Directed Learning	306
Private Study	754
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%