Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	BSc (Hons) Sociology and Criminology with Foundation Year
2	**Course Code**	US1582F
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	N/A

6	**Course Description**
	Our BSc (Hons) Sociology and Criminology with a Foundation Year course has been specifically designed to support your transition to degree-level study in sociology and criminology. You will take a foundation year of Level 3 study, which has been designed to provide a sound basis for further study by developing your knowledge, skills and understanding. **What's covered in this course?** Examples of knowledge gained includes essential study and research skills, describe the key figures and theories in criminology and sociology and a critical awareness of the major challenges in modern society and how they manifest in popular media and culture. On successful completion of the Foundation Year, you will move on to the first year of the BA (Hons) Sociology and Criminology degree – a degree that helps you make sense of the world and your place within it, both locally and globally by addressing long-standing and topical questions facing society. 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? Our Sociology and Criminology degree course will equip you with the theoretical and methodological tools to help investigate questions like these; complex questions that require serious reflection, critical analysis, and engagement with evidence. The Criminology element of the degree gives you the opportunity to understand how society makes sense of crime and criminality. You'll explore how crime connects to wider social issues, analyse patterns and processes of inequality, and gain a deeper understanding of power and hierarchies. This critical perspective helps you understand not just what crime is, but how societies decide what counts as criminal and why. This perspective also helps you think critically about what emerging social issues and harms might be criminalised in the future, and the social forces that drive those decisions.

	You'll learn research methods, analyse real data, and be taught by tutors who actively research issues like inequality and social change – so you're learning from people who are making new discoveries in the field, not just teaching from textbooks. Studying in the "super diverse" city of Birmingham is also beneficial to your studies, its hugely varied communities providing a living laboratory for understanding how society works. Through hands-on projects, intensive class discussions, career guidance and potential placements with public and third sector organisations, and an in-depth final year project, you'll explore the areas of sociology and criminology that matter to you most. These experiences will help you build professional networks while developing practical skills employers value, such as data analysis, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of how society really works, meaning you'll graduate with both the knowledge and connections to tackle some of society's biggest challenges.

7	**Course Awards**		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Bachelor of Science with Honours Sociology and Criminology	6	480
	Bachelor of Science with Honours Sociology and Criminology with Professional Placement Year	6	600
7b			
	Foundation Certificate Sociology and Criminology	3	120
	Certificate of Higher Education Sociology and Criminology	4	240
	Diploma of Higher Education in Sociology and Criminology	5	360
	Bachelor of Science Sociology and Criminology	6	480
	Bachelor of Science Sociology and Criminology with Professional Placement Year	6	600
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	4 years	US1582F

10	**Entry Requirements**
	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.

11	**Course Aims**
	This programme aims to: • Provide students with knowledge and ability to apply sociological and criminological 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 students' ability to develop opinions and new ideas, and to make reasoned, critical judgements and arguments • Provide skills to relate sociological and criminological knowledge to social and public policy • Recognise social and communicative skills to work collaboratively • The 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 knowledge of 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 distinctive features of sociology and criminology as disciplines and develop a proficiency of sociological and criminological 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
4	Reflectively 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 programme's core themes of social theory and research, culture, and politics - 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, and can formulate ideas taken from a wide reading of sociology and criminology to generate workable solutions to contemporary social problems.
8	Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of sociological and criminological perspectives, methods, and demonstrate their application to contemporary social issues and wider patterns of social change.
9	Critical reflect upon and analyse contemporary societal developments and sociological/criminological thought.

13	**Level Learning Outcomes**
	Upon completion of Level 3 / the Foundation Certificate, you will be able to:
1	Understand the development of sociology and criminology as academic subjects at a preliminary level.
2	Be aware of contemporary issues associated with sociology and criminology.
3	Use basic academic conventions relevant to the social sciences.
	Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, you will be able to:
4	Identify the distinctive features of sociology and criminology as disciplines and develop a proficiency of sociological and criminological theories, methods, themes and perspectives unique to sociology and criminology.
5	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.
6	Illustrate an understanding of crime and society recognising the importance of political, economic, cultural and historical interconnectedness at local, national, and international levels
	Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, you will be able to:
7	Reflectively 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.
8	Build social and cognitive skills involving social collaboration and understanding, independence of judgement and argument, problem solving and personal commitment and responsibility
9	Articulate an understanding of the disciplines of sociology and criminology – through the programme's core themes of social theory and research, culture, and politics - as being theoretically informed, evidence-based, relevant, professionally focussed and applied
	Upon completion of Level 6 / the Bachelors Degree, you will be able to:
10	Synthesise ideas to show that you can make sense of a wide range of social institutions, social changes and important social issues, and can formulate ideas taken from a wide reading of sociology and criminology to generate workable solutions to contemporary social problems
11	Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of sociological and criminological perspectives, methods, and demonstrate their application to contemporary social issues and wider patterns of social change.
12	Critical reflect upon and analyse contemporary societal developments and sociological/criminological thought.

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	Teaching and Learning Strategy Students 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 students will engage in include: • Workshops • Lectures • Seminars • Independent Learning (including reading and researching) • Online Activities (including group discussion forums, online videos etc.) **Assessment strategy** Students 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, students 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 students to develop their assessments. Individual feedback is also provided when assessments are returned to students. The focus of feedback is to help students develop their academic skills in preparation for future assessments.

15	Course Requirements
15a	**Level 3** **In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):**

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
SOC3001	Sociology: The Foundations	20
CRI3004	Criminology: The Foundations	20
SOC3002	Skills for the Social Scientist	20
SOC3000	Sociology & Criminology in Practice	20
CRI3000	Criminality, Crime Control & Society	20
SOC3004	FYSC Independent Research Project	20

Level 4:

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	Sociological Imagination	20
	Introduction to Criminological Theory	20
	The Criminal Justice System	20
	Crime, Punishment & Society	20
	Exploring Social Research	20
	Sociological Perspectives	20

Level 5:
In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	Contemporary Social Theories	20
	Social Problems, Public Policy	20
	Experiencing Harm	20
	Numbers and Power: Data & the Digital Age	20
	Sociological Careers	20
	Prisons and Punishment	20

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

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PPY5007	Professional Placement Year (Criminology and Sociology)	120

Level 6:
In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete the following CORE module (totalling 40 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
SOC6040	Integrated Research Project	40

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following DESIGNATED list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	Global Sociologies & Inequalities	20
	Advanced Criminological Theory	20

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following list of indicative OPTIONAL modules in term 1.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	Activism, Social Movements & Social Change	20
	Fascism, Extremism & Genocide	20
	Deviant Leisure	20

In order to complete this course, you must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following list of indicative OPTIONAL modules in term 2.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	Reimagining Justice	20
	Postcoloniality	20
	Intimacies, Communities & Belonging	20
	Music & Society	20
	Gender and Crime	20
	Cybercrime	20
	Hate Crime	20
	Crimes of the Powerful: Capitalism, Harm and the Contemporary Condition	20

15b. Full-time Structure Diagram

Level 3

SEMESTER ONE (ALL CORE)	SEMESTER TWO (ALL CORE)
Sociology: The Foundations	Sociology and Criminology in Practice
Criminology: The Foundations	Criminality, Crime Control and Society
Skills for the Social Scientists	FYSC Independent Research Project

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE (ALL CORE)	SEMESTER TWO (ALL CORE)
Sociological Imagination	Crime, Punishment and Society
Introduction to Criminological Theory	Exploring Social Research
The Criminal Justice System	Sociological Perspectives

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE (ALL CORE)	SEMESTER TWO (ALL CORE)
Contemporary Social Theories	Numbers and Power: Data & the Digital Age
Social Problems, Public Policy	Sociological Careers
Experiencing Harm	Prisons and Punishment

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Integrated Research Project (**CORE**)	
Designated option – choose 1 EITHER Global Sociologies & Inequalities OR Advanced Criminological Theory	Designated option - NONE

Options – choose 1	Options - choose 2
Activism, Social Movements & Social Change	Reimagining Justice
Fascism, Extremism & Genocide	Postcoloniality
Deviant Leisure	Intimacies, Communities & Belonging
	Music & Society
	Gender and Crime
	Cybercrime
	Hate Crime
	Crimes of the Powerful: Capitalism, Harm and the Contemporary Condition

15c Full Time with Professional Placement Year Course Structure

Level 3

SEMESTER ONE (ALL CORE)	SEMESTER TWO (ALL CORE)
Sociology: The Foundations	Sociology and Criminology in Practice
Criminology: The Foundations	Criminality, Crime Control and Society
Skills for the Social Scientists	FYSC Independent Research Project

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE (ALL CORE)	SEMESTER TWO (ALL CORE)
Sociological Imagination	Crime, Punishment and Society
Introduction to Criminological Theory	Exploring Social Research
The Criminal Justice System	Sociological Perspectives

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE (ALL CORE)	SEMESTER TWO (ALL CORE)
Contemporary Social Theories	Numbers and Power: Data & the Digital Age
Social Problems, Public Policy	Sociological Careers
Experiencing Harm	Prisons and Punishment

Professional Placement Year (120 credits)

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Integrated Research Project (**CORE**)	
Designated option – choose 1 EITHER Global Sociologies & Inequalities OR Advanced Criminological Theory	Designated option - NONE

Options – choose 1	Options - choose 2
Activism, Social Movements & Social Change	Reimagining Justice
Fascism, Extremism & Genocide	Postcoloniality
Deviant Leisure	Intimacies, Communities & Belonging
	Music & Society
	Gender and Crime
	Cybercrime
	Hate Crime
	Crimes of the Powerful: Capitalism, Harm and the Contemporary Condition

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Level 3

Workload

22% (estimated) time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	266
Directed Learning	288
Private Study	646
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	67%
Exam	0%
In-Person	33%

Level 4

Workload

23% (estimated) time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	276
Directed Learning	172
Private Study	752
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	83.3%
Exam	0%
In-Person	16.7%

Level 5

Workload
20% (estimated) time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	240
Directed Learning	324
Private Study	636
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	83.3%
Exam	0%
In-Person	16.7%

Level 6

Workload

17.7% (estimated) time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	212
Directed Learning	232
Private Study	756
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	83.3%
Exam	0%
In-Person	16.7%