



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BSc (Hons) Sociology

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

July 2021

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	<i>BSc (Hons) Sociology</i>
Final Award	<i>BSc</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C0315S</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus, Sandwich (Optional)</i>
Normal length of course	<i>3 years, 4 years with placement</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>From September 2020 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Education and Sociology; Sociology and Social Psychology Subject Group</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-education-and-sociology
Course webpage including entry criteria	http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/history-politics-and-social-studies/bsc-hons-sociology/
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>Not applicable</i>
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<i>Level 4, 5, 6</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To offer students a sound knowledge and understanding of Sociology – including theoretical, empirical, and methodological debates within the discipline
- To enable students to understand and apply key concepts, approaches and critiques within the field of Sociology and to develop an appreciation for its contested nature
- To equip students with the skills and the knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities
- To encourage critical thinking about a range of social and sociological issues in a global context
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning and graduate employment in the context of changing labour markets
- To support students gaining experience and skills relevant to employment or further study within the Sociology subject area by choosing relevant work placement and/or study abroad options
- To establish a framework for students to follow a flexible, coherent programme of study, allowing them to develop specialist interests and knowledge in their main subject and in a minor subject via a Pathway. *This course offers a subject Pathway in Media Studies. A student who satisfies the Pathway requirements will qualify for the following named award:*
 - *BSc (Hons) Sociology with Media Studies*

Pathways provide flexibility in the course by offering an academically coherent combination of modules in another subject area for a student to undertake alongside their main degree subject. All students apply for the Single Honours degree and follow a common curricula of core modules at level 4. All participating Single Honours degrees include a 20 credit bridging modules for each Pathway. These modules cover essential material on the Single Honours, and also introduce students to the subject Pathways offered at Levels 5 and 6 through their interdisciplinary flavour. The Bridging modules enhance the experience of all students, regardless of whether they opt for a Pathway, by introducing them to related subject areas that complement the main degree subject.

A student chooses whether to continue on the Single Honours programme or join a Pathway when making their options choices for Level 5. In order to satisfy the requirements for the recommendation of the Pathway award a student must have been awarded 40 credits at level 5 and 40 credits in level 6 in subject Pathway units. A student who joins a Pathway at Level 5 but decides that they do not wish to remain on it, can return to the Single Honours Programme at Level 6, with the exception of those programmes subject to professional accreditation requirements.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

Graduates will have knowledge and understanding of Sociology. In order to show this they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	<i>Demonstrate an understanding of the range of classical and contemporary sociological theories, and concepts</i>	These outcomes are developed	These outcomes are assessed

A2	<i>Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the range of sociological research methods</i>	through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, and independent study. Delivery methods vary based on the topics being covered	through a range of methods such as essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, seminar performance, briefing papers, posters, and group and individual work
A3	<i>Identify distinctively sociological understandings of self and cultural identities</i>		
A4	<i>Appreciate the inter-relationships between the local and the global in sociological analysis</i>		
A5	<i>Discuss social diversity and inequality and their impact on the lives of individuals and groups</i>		
A6	<i>Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of public and everyday discourses in the shaping of culture and society</i>		

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

Graduates will have critical thinking skills. In order to show this they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	<i>Assess the merits of competing theories and explanations</i>	These outcomes are primarily developed through discussions (normally in seminars and workshops) and via supported independent learning. The delivery method varies based on the topics being covered	These outcomes are assessed through a range of methods such as essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, seminar performance, briefing papers, posters, and group and individual work
B2	<i>Gather, retrieve, and synthesise information</i>		
B3	<i>Make reasoned arguments supported by appropriate evidence</i>		
B4	<i>Review and evaluate evidence, including texts</i>		
B5	<i>Develop the ability to reflect on their own accumulation of knowledge and make use of constructive feedback</i>		

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

Graduates will be problem solvers with a creative, entrepreneurial mindset. In order to show this they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	<i>Demonstrate competence in using major theoretical perspectives and concepts in sociology, and their application to social life</i>	These outcomes are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars,	These outcomes are assessed through a range of methods such as essays, exams, reports,
C2	<i>Analyse, assess, and communicate empirical sociological information</i>		

		workshops, and independent study. Delivery methods vary based on the topics being covered	portfolios, dissertation, presentations, seminar performance, briefing papers, posters, and group and individual work
C3	<i>Identify a range of different research strategies and methods and comment on their relative advantages and disadvantages</i>		
C4	<i>Conduct sociological research in a preliminary way</i>		
C5	<i>Undertake and present scholarly work demonstrating initiative and time management</i>		

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

Graduates will be effective communicators. Graduates will be global citizens with an awareness of how issues of ethics and corporate social responsibility affect professional practice.

In order to show this they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	<i>Synthesise, analyse, and present material in a variety of formats</i>	These outcomes are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, and independent study. Delivery methods vary based on the topics being covered	These outcomes are assessed through a range of methods such as essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, seminar performance, briefing papers, posters, and group and individual work
D2	<i>Apply qualitative and quantitative analytical techniques</i>		
D3	<i>Demonstrate communication and information technology skills</i>		
D4	<i>Work as a member of a group, lead a small team, and work independently</i>		
D5	<i>Define and seek solutions to problems through logical, critical, and creative thinking</i>		

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides dedicated induction activities and student tutorial programmes which are specifically designed to support the transition of direct entry students to the requirements for studying at University.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Strategy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for *Sociology (2019)*
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for *Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies (2019)*
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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