# BSc in Criminology and Sociology

## COURSE SPECIFICATION FORM

For new course proposals and course amendments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT OF:</th>
<th>School of Law</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Code:</td>
<td>CR1014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title:</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Availability:</td>
<td>Autumn/Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisites:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-ordinator:</td>
<td>Dr Richard Smith</td>
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<td>Course Staff:</td>
<td>Dr Richard Smith</td>
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### Aims:

1. To provide an understanding of some of the controversies in sociology and how sociological theory can illuminate them.
2. To enable students to apply sociological theory to real world problems, both orally and in writing.
3. To give students the confidence and competence to understand and critically examine theoretical texts.

### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students will have acquired:

1. An understanding of some of the controversies in sociology and how sociological theory can illuminate them.
2. An ability to apply sociological theory to real world problems, both orally and in writing.
3. The confidence and competence to understand and critically examine theoretical texts.

### Course Content:

This first year core course is concerned with introducing students to theories and concepts in sociology and their application. It is divided into two main parts. In term one students will be introduced to a range of classical and contemporary social theories. In term two they will explore how these theories can be used to understand social divisions and social change.

1. Introduction: the rise of sociology.
2. French positivism – sociology as science.
3. Durkheim and the sociology of suicide.
4. Marx’s social theory – the emergence and nature of capitalism.
5. Marx’s analysis of capitalism – class, alienation and fetishism of commodities.
11. Feminism, gender and sociology – the feminist critique of sociological theorising.
12. Social divisions 1 – class – the influence of Marx and Weber, class measurement, and the contemporary relevance of class.
15. Social divisions 4 – age – the demographic transition, materialist v postmodern views of ageing.
17. Social change 2 – consumption and culture.
18. Social change 3 – new social movements — feminism and environmentalism as
19. Social change 4 – towards a global society?
20. Course review.

| Teaching & Learning Methods: | Lecture (1 hour per week)  
Seminar (1 hour per week) – work includes small group discussion and group presentations |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
* Recommended for purchase |
| Formative Assessment & Feedback: | Students will complete 1 formative essay (1400-1600 words)  
Advice about seminar presentations.  
Course evaluated by anonymous self-completion questionnaire |
| Summative Assessment: | **Exam:** (50%) (2 hours)  
**Coursework:** (50%) 1 essay 1400-1600 words.  
**Deadlines:** TBA |

The information contained in this course outline is correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change as part of the Department’s policy of continuous improvement and development. Every effort will be made to notify you of any such changes.