

BSc in Criminology and Sociology

COURSE SPECIFICATION FORM

For new course proposals and course amendments

DEPARTMENT OF: School of Law				Academic Session: Valid from 2012-13	
Course Code:	CR1014	Course Value:	1 unit	Status: (ie: Core, or Optional)	Core
Course Title:	Introduction to Sociology			Availability: (state which teaching terms)	Autumn/Spring
Prerequisites:	None			Recommended:	
Co-ordinator:	Dr Richard Smith				
Course Staff	Dr Richard Smith				
Aims:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an understanding of some of the controversies in sociology and how sociological theory can illuminate them. To enable students to apply sociological theory to real world problems, both orally and in writing To give students the confidence and competence to understand and critically examine theoretical texts 				
Learning Outcomes:	<p>By the end of the course students will have acquired:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An understanding of some of the controversies in sociology and how sociological theory can illuminate them. An ability to apply sociological theory to real world problems, both orally and in writing. The confidence and competence to understand and critically examine theoretical texts. 				
Course Content:	<p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction: the rise of sociology. French positivism – sociology as science. Durkheim and the sociology of suicide. Marx's social theory – the emergence and nature of capitalism. Marx's analysis of capitalism – class, alienation and fetishism of commodities. Weber's approach to sociological theory – social action, ideal types, value-freedom. Weber's analysis of capitalism – social stratification, authority, bureaucracy, rationality and disenchantment. American sociology 1 – the (first) Chicago School. American sociology 2 – Functionalism. American sociology 3 – Interaction theories. Feminism, gender and sociology – the feminist critique of sociological theorising. Social divisions 1 – class – the influence of Marx and Weber, class measurement, and the contemporary relevance of class. Social divisions 2 – race and ethnicity – Marxian and Weberian inspired theories, ethnicity and ethnic identity approaches. Social divisions 3 – gender – theoretical explanations for gender inequalities. Social divisions 4 – age – the demographic transition, materialist v postmodern views of ageing. Social change 1 – work and employment – industrialism and capitalism, fordism/mass production, post fordism/flexible labour. Social change 2 – consumption and culture. Social change 3 – new social movements – feminism and environmentalism as 				

	<p>examples.</p> <p>19. Social change 4 – towards a global society?</p> <p>20. Course review.</p>
Teaching & Learning Methods:	<p>Lecture (1 hour per week)</p> <p>Seminar (1 hour per week) – work includes small group discussion and group presentations</p>
Key Bibliography:	<p>*Cohen, R. and Kennedy, P. (2007) <i>Global Sociology</i>. London: Macmillan.</p> <p>*Cuff, E., Sharrock, W. and Francis, D. (2006) <i>Perspectives in Sociology</i>. London: Routledge.</p> <p>*Fulcher, J. and Scott, J. (2003) <i>Sociology</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Pampel, F. (2000) <i>Sociological Lives and Ideas</i>. New York: Worth.</p> <p>Payne, G (ed) (2006) <i>Social Divisions</i>. London: Macmillan.</p> <p>Taylor, S. (1999) <i>Sociology: Issues and Debates</i>. London: Macmillan.</p> <p>* Recommended for purchase</p>
Formative Assessment & Feedback:	<p>Students will complete 1 formative essay (1400-1600 words)</p> <p>Advice about seminar presentations.</p> <p>Course evaluated by anonymous self-completion questionnaire</p>
Summative Assessment:	<p>Exam: (50%) (2 hours)</p> <p>Coursework: (50%) 1 essay 1400-1600 words.</p> <p>Deadlines: TBA</p>

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.