

Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology

Final Year

SOCI 301: Dissertation

Pre-requisites: SOCI247 & SOCI248

30 Credits | Whole session

Mandatory for all Sociology pathways and Criminology 100% & 75%

You can choose either SOCI301 or SOCI303 or SOCI311 you cannot chose them together. Select can select these modules only if you have taken both SOCI247 and SOCI248 in your second year.

Running across two semesters, the dissertation is a major part of the final year of study and completes their "apprenticeship" in social science. It allows students to revisit, consolidate and apply what they have learnt in the course of their degree studies by focusing in on an independent research project of their own choosing and which they must systematically complete and present as an original social science dissertation.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 303: Interchange Portfolio: Work-based Learning

Pre-requisites: SOCI247 & SOCI248

30 Credits | Whole session

Mandatory for all Sociology pathways and Criminology 100% & 75%

You can choose either SOCI301 or SOCI303 or SOCI311 you cannot chose them together. Select can select these modules only if you have taken both SOCI247 and SOCI248 in your second year.

The module gives you the opportunity to engage in either an applied social research project or a distinct work project in collaboration with a local Voluntary Community Organisation (VCO). This is organised through the charity 'Interchange', based in School of Law and Social Justice.

Assessment Type: (60%, 40%) Coursework

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SOCI 307: Health, Life Course and Society

15 Credits | Semester 1

The aims of this module are to develop a broad range of sociological understandings of issues relevant to health, illness and the life course. This will involve critically examining new developments in theoretical and methodological approaches as well as a variety of empirical studies on the social and cultural aspects of health, illness and the life course.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 308: Gender and Crime

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module explores issues concerning the gendered nature of work related to deviance. It considers arguments concerning women's relation to deviance, explores the links between masculinities and crime, studies the experiences of female offenders and explores experiences of women as victims of crime. Teaching is based on current research and practice in this key area.

Assessment Type: (60%, 40%) Coursework

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SOCI 311: Short Interchange Project

15 Credits | Semester 1

Pre-requisites: SOCI247 & SOCI248

Mandatory for all Sociology pathways and Criminology 100% & 75%

You can choose either SOCI301 or SOCI303 or SOCI311 you cannot choose them together. Select can select these modules only if you have taken both SOCI247 and SOCI248 in your second year.

The module gives you the opportunity to engage in an in-depth investigation of benefit to a local Voluntary Community Organisation (VCO). This module may involve use of anonymised secondary data analysis, or literature review, or policy analysis, and does not involve the collection of new data. The engagement with the VCO is organised through the charity Interchange, based in the SLSJ.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 315: Gender, the Body and Identity

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module introduces students to key issues in contemporary feminist theory. Centering on the controversies and debates surrounding gender and identity the course examines the ways in which feminist theorists have developed, contested and expanded the concept of gender. To do so the module explores a wide range of contemporary issues on the body and power.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 319: Victimology: Theory and Method

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module explores the sub-discipline victimology. In doing so, it provides an insight into its historical origins, its pertinent developments over time, and contemporary advances in relation to theory, policy, methods and conceptual thinking regarding the notion of the 'victim'. The module presents four major pillars in victimological work, namely: positivist, feminist, critical and radical approaches, in addition to more recent 'cultural' developments within contemporary victimological scholarship and research. Students will be encouraged to think critically, conceptually and methodologically about how studying 'victims', victimisation and victimhood might be thoughtfully undertaken and achieved.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 320: The Risk Society: Crime, Security and Public Policy
15 Credits | Semester 2

This module examines the place of risk in the modern world. Students will be invited to explore the social impacts of various security risks and to examine the ways in which individuals produce, consume and manage risks in everyday life.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

SOCI 321: Corporate Crime, Law and Power
15 Credits | Semester 2

This module explores the phenomenon of corporate crime in historical and contemporary contexts. It does so by exploring the ways in which the law acts as a key source of the power to commit corporate crimes that victimise workers, consumers, communities and the eco-system. This course will explore the development of the corporation as a key institution in capitalist societies and the ways in which the law supports the corporation and can provide a structure of impunity for corporate crimes.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

SOCI 323: Youth Crime, Youth Justice and Social Control
15 Credits | Semester 2

The module is underpinned by three core aims. First, to provide a critical overview of the historical development of state policy responses to youth crime (particularly within England and Wales) and to explore criminological and sociological conceptualisations of 'youth', 'crime', 'criminalisation' and 'justice'. Second, to analyse the competing priorities and underpinning discourses that inform youth justice policy formation. Third, to explore the application of youth justice policy through the interventions of state agencies, and to consider the principal consequences of such interventions for 'young offenders', the management of youth crime and the regulation and governance of young people.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

SOCI 325: Politics, Society and the State: Classic and Contemporary Ethnographies
15 Credits | Semester 1

The overall aim of this module is to explore how particular ways of doing ethnography help us to analyse politics, policy, government and the state as social phenomena. Rather than provide a single 'tool kit', the lectures will highlight the diversity of ethnographic techniques and analytical practices that researchers actually employ. Based on this, and along with the small-scale exercise in observational fieldwork, the module provides ideas about how we might pursue politics and political actors through society for ourselves and in a variety of ways.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

SOCI 327: Politics, Society and the State: Classic and Contemporary Ethnographies 15 Credits | Semester 2

This module considers the links between the rise of urban forms of living, economic change, and the place of 'culture' within society. It asks questions such as why cities are at the heart of cultural development, why culture is seen by some as having a role to play in dealing with urban social problems, how the nature of cultural expression changes as dominant economic forms change, whether cultural and economic values are really opposed, what the role of culture is in a 'new economy', and how governments seek to intervene in this area.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 331: Critical Perspectives in Desistance from Crime *Pre-requisites: SOCI107, SOCI 108, SOCI244 & SOCI254* 15 Credits | Semester 1

This module provides an introduction to the study of desistance from crime with a particular focus on critical approaches and new developments in the field. Using a range of teaching, learning and assessment methods this module will equip students with knowledge and skills which will enable the consideration of key issues in desistance research and the impact on policy and practice from an informed and critical perspective. The aim will be to challenge the more traditional theory, research, policy and practice in this area and examine new and emergent areas of study that advocate for an approach that looks beyond the criminal justice system for reducing re-offending. Upon completing the module, students should have a solid understanding of desistance theory, new empirical developments, the role of punishment and resettlement in desistance from crime, issues around gender and the ability to critically interpret desistance research and the impact it has had on both policy and practice.

Assessment Type: 100% Practical Assessment

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SOCI 332: Gender and the Welfare State 15 Credits | Semester 1

The course investigates the different ways in which gender is incorporated into national welfare states and the impact of national structures on the patterns and prevalence's of gender inequalities. The course covers the theory and methodology of comparative studies and their applicability to the analysis of gender, especially how well existing typologies of welfare states fare when gender is the focus of analysis. A number of key patterns of inequality and policy areas will be studied and we will look at the political economy of neoliberalisation and austerity and its effect on gendered welfare state provision. By looking at these aspects of welfare states students will be encouraged to contrast approaches of different welfare systems and consider the particularism of national approaches.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 335: Class and Everyday Life

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module explores the continued relevance of class in the late modern, post-industrial period. It examines the role of class in the context of deindustrialisation, individualisation and the neoliberal moment which have pronounced its death. This module explores the continued relevance of class today under austerity and looks at how it manifests in our everyday lives through such things as our relationships, job, health and clothes and endures as a key mode of inequality and identity in the UK.

It examines the ongoing fissures between cultural and economic/ phenomenological and material relations of class which have beset analysis and explores how these might be understood using various theoretical frameworks to explore the remaking of class subjects and show how class still matters.

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Assess the continued relevance of the role of class analysis within social theory and social life
- Analyse the phenomenological and material experiences of class and problems of structure and agency in theory and analysis
- Use class as a critical lens to explore various aspects of social life and investigate its empirical manifestations

Assessment Type: (90%, 10%) Coursework

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SOCI 337: Alcohol, Crime and Society

15 Credits | Semester 2

This module seeks to enable students with a deeper critical understanding of societal issues concerning alcohol and crime, and to appraise how social policy has been developed to try to alleviate them. Students will look at how issues of alcohol consumption and associated criminal behaviour are socially constructed. Through these understandings, students will develop their own knowledge as to how policy responses to such 'problems' are interpreted and translated into practice. Students will be encouraged to consider how some people's drinking is disproportionately framed as problematic, with reference to age, gender and class, as well as consider the spatial distribution of alcohol-related crime/violence/harm and links to wider social-structural processes. Due attention will be given to a range of criminological and multi-disciplinary perspectives in the lectures.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 339: Drugs, Crime and Society

15 Credits | Semester 1

This module seeks to enable students to develop a deeper critical understanding of societal issues concerning illegal drugs and crime, and to appraise how policy and practice have developed to try to alleviate them. Students will look at how issues of drug use, supply and associated criminal behaviour are socially constructed. Through these understandings, students will develop their own knowledge as to how policy responses to such 'problems' are interpreted and translated into practice. Students will be encouraged to consider how some people's drug use is disproportionately framed as problematic, with reference to age, gender and class, as well as consider the spatial distribution of drug-related crime, violence, harm and links to wider social-structural processes. Due attention will be given to a range of criminological and multi-disciplinary perspectives in this module.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 340: Cultural Criminology
15 Credits | Semester 1

Culture, or the 'symbolic environment' in and through which individuals and groups make sense of their being, their actions, and the social and material world, shapes our understandings of crime and its control. Definitions and meanings of crime and transgression are constantly negotiated, and contested, in everyday life, global politics and media. In this module, students will engage with the interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological approaches of cultural criminology. Students will explore how transgression and control are intertwined with various cultural phenomena and processes of meaning-making in order to develop an understanding of crime as a culturally mediated concept. Module topics include (virtual) subcultures, media representation in a multi-mediated age, consumerism, cultural and political resistance, green cultural criminology and feminist cultural criminology.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 341: Community and the Problem of Crime
15 Credits | Semester 2

The problem of crime has been seen as a major issue of concern to the media, politicians and policy-makers over the last thirty years. This module critically examines responses to 'crime' and, more recently, 'disorder' in Britain over this period, and examines the ways in which these responses have impacted upon different sections of society. The module provides an introduction to the relationship between crime and community as this has been developed within the discipline of criminology in Western societies.

Assessment Type: (60%, 40%) Coursework

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SOCI 344: Global Environmental Crimes and Justice
15 Credits | Semester 2

This module looks at how criminology has tried to understand the effects on crime and criminal justice of climate change and other processes of social change associated environmental insecurity. The module will provide a comprehensive introduction to, and look in detail at, crimes which harm the environment, and which can be committed, organized or coordinated across national borders, involving groups or networks of individuals working in or than one country. The module will also explore the global effort to prevent such crimes, together with the challenges of applying ordinary instruments of criminal justice to environmental matters. Here, specific examples will include: Illegal logging and deforestation, illegal undeclared and unregulated fishing or depletion of fish species which are endangered; illegal dumping of toxic waste, especially in the developing countries; Illegal Transboundary waste shipment; Toxic waste and pollution; Money laundering and transfer of the proceeds of environmental crimes; poaching and trade in wildlife species and wildlife parts, criminological environmental theories; UN Conventions, protocols and offices related to the environment, among other things.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 345: Military, Militarism, Identity and Place
15 Credits | Semester 1

Pre-requisites: SOCI248

Taking the UK context as its focus this module explores ways to think critically about the role of military institutions and estates, and their associated values, identities and practices, as they are found influencing and impacting upon everyday public life.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 346: 'Race', Community and Identity
15 Credits | Semester 2

This module looks at the impact of colonialism on patterns of migration to Britain in the post war period. It examines the changing nature of racism as an ideology by exploring and contextualising scientific and institutional forms of racisms. You will look at the conflictual relationship between the state and minority ethnic communities through an examination of various struggles including anti-immigration ones. The module will also seek to unpack constructions of ethnic and national identity in the context of post-colonial Britain

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 348: Documentary Photography as Social Research
15 Credits | Semester 1

Photography is becoming increasingly popular amongst the social sciences. Although some disciplines like Anthropology and Geography have long made use of photography as an integral part of the research process, others like Sociology and Criminology are relatively new to the method. In this module students will examine how photography, particularly documentary photography, has been and can be used to understand, analyse, illustrate and communicate the social world. By looking at work by both practitioners and scholars, as well as various theories surrounding the photograph, students will develop a visual literacy and methodology to include within their research and practice repertoire.

Assessment Type: (60%, 40%) Coursework

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SOCI 349: Crime, Justice and the Sex Industry
15 Credits | Semester 1

This module aims to critically explore the concept of the 'sex industry' and will examine policy, policing of sex work, stigma, and the global sex worker rights movement.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 352: Deaths, Spirits and Spirituality
15 Credits | Semester 2

This module looks at the sociology of death and spirituality. In the first part of the module, rather than seeing death as simply a biological process, we unpack the various social processes and forces that influence how we see, understand, experience and cope with death. In the second part, we look at how groups and individuals engage with, imagine and construct relationships with spirits. From conversations with the dead in spiritualist churches, to faith healing, to Chinese spirit mediums and Hungry Ghosts, students will take a global perspective on the socio-spiritual world.

Assessment Type: (60%, 40%) Coursework

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SOCI 369: Community and Public Involvement in Crime and Criminal Justice
15 Credits | Semester 2

This module examines how 'communities' and members of the general public interact with and are 'involved' in crime control and criminal justice institutions. You will explore how the lay public are involved, who is involved and the effects of public involvement in different settings. The module is taught via lectures, seminars and independent study.

Assessment Type: 100% Coursework

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SOCI 372: Architecture and Power: Parliaments, Prisons, Courts
15 Credits | Semester 2

This module is based around a comprehensive introduction to social studies of architecture and focuses on analysis of the architectural spaces of parliaments, prisons, and courts. Introducing sociological frameworks for understanding the relationship between states, architecture and power, the module addresses these three types of political architecture, including as they are put to practical use.

Assessment Type: (60%, 40%) Coursework

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