

Minor Specification

Sociology

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Name of minor	Sociology
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Sociology
Faculty that owns the minor	Social Sciences
Minor Leader	Karen Anderson (S1) / Craig Webber (S2)
Date specification was written	23 October 2013

Overview of Minor

1 Brief outline of the minor

This minor enables students to investigate and acquire competence in the issues, theories and methodologies which are central to the study of Sociology. Students will learn how to conceptualise and offer explanations for social patterns of inclusion and exclusion, the relationships between individuals, groups and societies, questions of diversity and difference, and social changes brought about through, for example, digital technologies, globalisation and migration.

2 Learning and teaching

The learning and teaching methods provide our students with knowledge of the key concepts and arguments with the capacity to apply this knowledge in a variety of contexts.

In addition, a key objective of the minor is to ensure that you are able to use a range of qualitative and quantitative research techniques appropriately and effectively. Lectures are complemented by seminars and group activities and discussions, often being student led and involving presentations.

3 Assessment

In each year, the assessment methods allow students to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes. In Part 1 this is primarily by examination and essay. Most part 2 modules are also assessed by examination, but in combination with other methods of assessment, such as short essays, group and individual presentations, or poster presentations. In Part 3, most modules are assessed either by a single long essay or by a shorter essay in combination with individual or group presentations, poster presentations or some other method of assessment.

Educational Aims of the Minor

Having successfully completed this programme, you will be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of the central theoretical and methodological approaches in the study of Sociology
- Knowledge of selected issues and concepts across a range of sociological contexts and topics of study
- Capacity for the critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence and for the application of these in your own work
- Capacity to undertake independent enquiry into sociological issues, using appropriate methodologies
- Skills in written and oral communication, the use of information technology, the analysis of different forms of information, and working cooperatively in groups to achieve designated outcomes

Learning Outcomes for the Minor

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The nature and significance of sociology, sociological perspectives and methodologies.
- The links between personal experiences and aspects of wider social and cultural organisation, and as these vary between societies.
- The application of concepts, theories and methods relevant to understanding social issues and social problems.
- Communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats.
- Communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations.
- Work independently demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management.
- Collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals.
- Identify, select and draw upon a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material as a means to develop and present arguments and evidence

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student -led seminars, group projects, independent work

Assessment methods

Written unseen examinations, essays, reports, reflective logs, multiple choice questions, individual and group presentations are all used to assess the achievement of learning objectives

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate explanations to questions and problems
- Develop reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information, and exercise critical judgement
- Reflect on your own learning and personal development to make use of constructive feedback and opportunities for further development
- Manage your own learning and personal development self critically and purposefully

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student -led seminars, group projects, independent work

Assessment methods

Written unseen examinations, essays, reports, reflective logs, multiple choice questions, individual and group presentations are all used to assess the achievement of learning objectives

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- Identify questions and select and draw upon appropriate evidence using a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material to investigate a field of enquiry and develop and present arguments and evidence
- Communicate evidence, ideas and arguments in a variety of different written and numerical formats
- Communicate evidence, ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations
- Work independently demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management
- Collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student -led seminars, group projects, independent work

Assessment methods

Written unseen examinations, essays, reports, reflective logs, multiple choice questions, individual and group presentations are all used to assess the achievement of learning objectives

Subject Specific Practical Skills (optional)

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Describe, evaluate and apply different theoretical and methodological approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information
- Identify issues for sociological enquiry
- Assess the ethical implications of your own research and others
- Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources
- Present scholarly work using appropriate formats and conventions

Structure of Minor

1 Typical content

How do we make sense of the society around us, of how we shape it and how it shapes us? Sociology offers a critical understanding of how society works, and the relationships between individuals, families and groups such as “races” and “classes”. It asks critical questions about recent changes, which have transformed our social lives, such as the advent of the cyber-age, globalisation, inequality and migration.

Sociology questions assumptions about our social life and challenges you to interrogate these with the help of research. It also examines how societies around the world change in different ways, and how these relate to questions of politics and economy. As a student taking the minor in Sociology, you will develop the reading, writing and oral communication skills needed to engage with these questions and be encouraged to come up with your own.

2 Special Features of the programme

You will be taught by experts who are active researchers and passionate about their subjects. They are also experienced teachers who enjoy engaging students. Moreover, we emphasise employability and practical applicability throughout all aspects of the Minor.

3 Details of the minor

You may not select modules that are incorporated as core or compulsory on your Major programme of study.

Back Tracking and Forward Tracking: Back tracking and forward tracking by one level are allowed up to 15 ECTS/30 CATS.

Teaching is research led at all levels. As a result, the modules on offer vary from year to year as staff research interests and priorities develop and change. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer to students wishing to study for the Minor."

The minor consists of the following although not all modules may be available in any given year:

Part 1: 1 module (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS) from:

SOCI1001 Understanding Everyday Life,
SOCI1002 Transformations of the Modern World,
SOCI1014 Foundations in Social and Anthropological Theory

Part 2: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS) from:

One from:

SOCI2003 Gender and Society
SOCI2017 Class Structure and Social Inequality
SOCI2031 Social Theory
SOCI2032 Migration in a Globalising World
SOCI2035 Children & Society

One from:

ANTH2002 Culture, Communication and Cognition
SOCI2008 Race and Ethnicity in Society
SOCI2036 Globalisation, Inequalities and Power
SOCI2033 Environment, Development & Society
UOSM2001 Business Skills for Employability
UOSM2004 Global Health
UOSM2008 Living and Working on the Web (can only select if UOSM2033 is not taken)
UOSM2009 Ethics in a Complex World
UOSM2010 Global Challenges
UOSM2011 The Management of Risk and Uncertainty
UOSM2012 Online Social Networks
UOSM2016 The Human Brain and Society
UOSM2017 Intercultural Communication in a Global World
UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China
UOSM2022 Social Enterprise
UOSM2024 The Arab World in and Beyond the Headlines
UOSM2026 Ethics in Science, Engineering and Technology: Jekyll and Hyde
UOSM2033 Living and Working on the Web (can only select if UOSM2008 is not taken)

Part 3: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS) from:

SOCI3001 Comparative Sociology

Plus one from:

SOCI3008 The Sociology of Youth
SOCI3073 Cyber Lives? New Technologies and Social Change
SOCI3079 Focusing on Families
SOCI3008 The Sociology of Youth
SOCI3082 Race and Ethnicity in Society* (cannot be taken if you have previously taken SOCI2008)
SOCI3083 Class Structure and Social Inequality
SOCI3084 Environment, Development & Society
SOCI3086 Children & Society
UOSM2001 Business Skills for Employability
UOSM2004 Global Health
UOSM2008 Living and Working on the Web (can only select if UOSM2033 is not taken)
UOSM2033 Living and Working on the Web (can only select if UOSM2008 is not taken)
UOSM2009 Ethics in a Complex World

UOSM2010 Global Challenges
UOSM2011 The Management of Risk and Uncertainty
UOSM2012 Online Social Networks
UOSM2016 The Human Brain and Society
UOSM2017 Intercultural Communication in a Global World
UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China
UOSM2022 Social Enterprise
UOSM2024 The Arab World in and Beyond the Headlines
UOSM2026 Ethics in Science, Engineering and Technology: Jekyll and Hyde

4 Progression Requirements

The programme, of which this minor comprises a part, follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found on the minor website at <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page>.

Revision History

1. Pauline Leonard 24th October 2013
2. CQA team 28th April 2014
3. CQA team July 2015
4. Silke Roth, July 2015
5. CQA team, November 2015 (inclusion of UOSM2034 to yr 2)
6. CQA team, July 2016
7. Silke Roth, August 2016
8. Paul Bridgen (HoTP SSPC) August 2017
9. S.Casey 18/19 revisions as approved by QAM on 26/03/18