

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Understanding Society
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	4
4	Module Code	SOC4021

5	Module Overview
<p>Understanding Society introduces students to the idea of modernity, the Enlightenment and key classical thinkers in sociology. The module presents critiques of the Enlightenment view of modernity as progress, outlining the 'dark side' of modernity's emergence. As well as discussing classical thinkers such as Marx, Durkheim and Weber, the module introduces WEB DuBois and considers how slavery, imperialism and the rise of capitalism impacted the making of the modern world. We also consider how the emergence of modern knowledge and power were gendered and racialized from the outset.</p> <p>This module places contemporary society in its global and historical context and uses the work of classical and critical social theorists to consider how societies at both the national and global level are socially structured and stratified.</p> <p>Students' understanding of sociology as a discipline and as a perspective on society is further enhanced by introducing them to contemporary critiques of classical social theory drawn from feminist, anti-colonial, decolonial, postcolonial and postmodernist theories and debates.</p> <p>We will apply these perspectives to contemporary societies and students will evaluate their usefulness or otherwise for understanding contemporary social issues.</p> <p>In alignment with the wider Course Philosophy and Aims, this module will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice a form of sociological inquiry that is theoretically informed, knowledge-applied, evidence based, and interdisciplinary to provide students with an understanding of key approaches to understanding the modern world and modern societies and sociology as a discipline. • Enable students to acquire a broad range of transferable and employability-related skills, knowledge, and professional behaviours and attitudes relevant to a wide range of graduate employers. • This module promotes employability by developing a critical awareness of social divisions and social institutions. In so doing it provides part of a social-science first year through which learners develop a more critical understanding of the contemporary dilemmas of social life. <p>In alignment with the wider Course Learning and Teaching Strategy, this module will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage engaged and deep - rather than passive and surface-level –learning 	

- Facilitate students becoming independent learners engaged in a range of pre-, and post-, sessional tasks outside the classroom, such as reading, research, collaborative work, and practical experience
- Provide formative learning activities to aid understanding, confidence building and provide valuable.
- The module is also interdisciplinary, drawing on work from politics, history and Black Studies, as well as sociology. The module also situates the development of modernity in its global context, adding to the internationalisation of the degree.

6	Indicative Content
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- Introduction: Society and the Sociological Imagination.
- Enlightenment Modernity: Reason, Progress & Revolution.
- Modernity and Its Others: Imperial Power, Eurocentric Knowledge.
- Marx, Capitalism, Class and Society.
- Durkheim: Structural Functionalism- Social Solidarity or Bust.
- Weber: Capitalism is an Iron Cage.
- DuBois: The Problem of the Colour Line.
- Engendering Modernity and the Masculinity of Society.
- Postcolonial Feminisms and Intersectionality.
- Postmodernity and Difference.
- The Legacies of Modernity.

7	Module Learning Outcomes
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On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

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| 1. | Demonstrate knowledge of classical Enlightenment understandings of modernity and modern society. |
| 2. | Critique ideas of modernity, using histories of slavery, genocide and colonialism. |
| 3. | Demonstrate knowledge of classical sociological perspectives on modernity and society. |
| 4. | Demonstrate the ability to critically apply contested theories of modern knowledge, power and society to the analysis of contemporary societies. |

8	Module Assessment		
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Learning Outcome			
	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1 and 2			X
3 and 4	X		

9 Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities	Hours
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	36
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	14
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	150
Total Study Hours:	200