



Module Title: Introduction to Sociology 1

Module Code: SOU11011/SOU11013

Module Name:

- **ECTS Weighting: 5**
- **Semester/Term Taught: Michaelmas Term**
- **Contact Hours: 2 hrs lecture, 1 hr tutorial**
- **Module Personnel: Richard Layte & TA team**

Module Learning Aims and Content:

Sociology enables us to understand and critically explore the social world in which we live. The module introduces students to the distinctive questions that sociologists ask about human society and the theories, concepts and analytical tools used in the search for answers. Students are encouraged to develop a 'sociological imagination' in order to understand the inter-relationships and dependencies between the individual, society and wider global processes. The module explores why we need a sociological approach to the explanation of human behaviour and the historical emergence of sociology as a way of understanding key issues in social life. It then examines core sociological processes such as how social norms shape behaviour, the structure of social networks and the roles of social capital, social conformism and group identity. The module also examines issues of social stratification and inequality.

Module Learning Outcomes:

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

- Explain the role of social context in shaping human behaviour and group processes.
- Know the different types of social structures, their characteristics and the social processes associated with each.
- Have a knowledge of the main contribution of some of the classical sociological thinkers.
- Be able to compare and contrast different theoretical approaches to key issues.
- Identify and apply sociological theories to real world social phenomena and the evidence that is available to support them (or not).

Recommended Reading List:

- Christakis, N. and Fowler, J. (2011) *Connected: The Amazing Power of Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives*, Harper Press, London.
- Haidt, J. (2012) *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*. Penguin Books, London.



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

- Gelfand, M (2018) Rule Makers, Rule Breakers, Robinson, London.
- Norenzayan, A. (2010) Big Gods: How Religion Transformed Cooperation and Conflict, Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Module Pre-Requisite:

Module Co-Requisite:

Assessment Details:

- One Powerpoint presentation during the semester (20%)
- 40 question, 1 hour multiple choice exam (80%)
- Supplementary assessment will be by 1500 word essay.

Module Website: