

# SOU11011— Introduction to Sociology 1

*Replace the heading above with the module code and title before converting to PDF.*

| Module Information |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Module Code        | SOU11011                         |
| Module Title       | Introduction to Sociology 1      |
| Department         | Sociology                        |
| Year Group         | Junior Fresh                     |
| Module Personnel   | Richard Layte                    |
| Academic Year      | 2026–27                          |
| Credit Weighting   | 5 credits                        |
| Semester           | Semester 1                       |
| Contact Hours      | 2 lectures + 1 tutorial per week |

| Module Content       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Module Description   | <p>Sociology enables us to understand and critically explore the social world in which we live. This 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, the emergence of social institutions and the roles of social capital, social conformism and group identity. The module also examines issues of social stratification and inequality.</p> |
| Module Learning Aims | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a broad introduction to the origins of the discipline of sociology.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Module Content                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the specific insight that sociological analysis provides on human groups and societies.</li> <li>• Provide the specific explanatory mechanisms (the theoretical 'tool kit') used by sociologists.</li> <li>• Show specific examples of sociological work that illustrate the points above.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the role of social context in shaping human behaviour and group processes.</li> <li>• Know the different types of social structures, their characteristics and the social processes associated with each.</li> <li>• Have a knowledge of the main contribution of some of the classical sociological thinkers.</li> <li>• Be able to compare and contrast different theoretical approaches to key issues.</li> <li>• Identify and apply sociological theories to real world social phenomena and the evidence that is available to support them (or not).</li> </ul> |
| <b>Indicative Reading / Resources</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Van Tubergen, F. (2019) <i>Introduction to Sociology</i>, Routledge, London.</li> <li>• Watts, D.J (2011) <i>Everything is Obvious (Once You Know the Answer)</i>, Atlantic Books, New York.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Assessment                   |                                                                |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Assessment Components</b> | Tutorial Presentation (50%)<br>Multiple Choice Term Test (50%) |
| <b>Assessment Details</b>    |                                                                |

| Additional Information |      |
|------------------------|------|
| <b>Prerequisites</b>   | None |
| <b>Co-requisites</b>   | None |



## Additional Information

**Any other information**