

## SOU11012/4 — Introduction to Sociology 2

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

| Module Information |                                                      |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Module Code        | SOU11012/4                                           |
| Module Title       | Introduction to Sociology 2                          |
| Department         | Sociology                                            |
| Year Group         | Junior Fresh                                         |
| Module Personnel   | Dr Jan Skopek                                        |
| Academic Year      | 2026-27                                              |
| Credit Weighting   | 5                                                    |
| Semester           | Hilary term (Semester 2)                             |
| Contact Hours      | 2 hours lecture per week (22 in total) plus tutorial |

| Module Content       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Module Description   | <i>Introduction to Sociology 2</i> introduces students to key sociological perspectives on contemporary social life. The module examines how sociologists analyse major changes in modern societies, including transformations in work, family life, gender relations, demographic patterns, social inequality, migration, urban life, and collective action. Across the module, students engage with theoretical arguments and empirical research to understand how individual lives are shaped by wider social structures, institutions, cultural norms, and historical change. The module also supports students in developing foundational academic skills, especially the ability to read sociological texts, evaluate evidence, participate in discussion, and construct a clear and effective sociological essay. |
| Module Learning Aims | <p>The module aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduce students to central themes, concepts, and debates in contemporary sociology.</li> <li>2. Develop students' understanding of how sociological analysis explains the relationship between individual experience and wider social change.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Module Content

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|                                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Familiarise students with examples of quantitative and qualitative research used to investigate social processes and social inequalities.</li> <li>4. Encourage students to apply sociological concepts to current social issues across different national and institutional contexts.</li> <li>5. Strengthen students' capacity to read academic literature, assess empirical evidence, and communicate sociological arguments in written and oral form.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>              | <p>Upon successful completion of the module, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe key sociological concepts and theories relevant to the study of contemporary societies.</li> <li>• Explain how social institutions, cultural norms, and structural inequalities shape individual behaviour, identities, and life chances.</li> <li>• Identify major social transformations in areas such as work, family, gender, demography, migration, inequality, urban life, and collective action.</li> <li>• Apply sociological perspectives to real-world social issues using appropriate examples.</li> <li>• Interpret and evaluate empirical research evidence, including both quantitative and qualitative studies.</li> <li>• Compare sociological explanations and assess their strengths and limitations.</li> <li>• Develop clear, evidence-based sociological arguments in discussion, presentation, and written work.</li> <li>• Demonstrate foundational academic skills, including critical reading, appropriate use of sources, essay planning, and structured academic writing.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Indicative Reading / Resources</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldthorpe, J. H. (2016). <i>Sociology as a population science</i>. Cambridge University Press.</li> <li>• Murji, K. (2026). <i>An Introduction to Sociology</i> (2nd Edition). SAGE Publications.</li> <li>• Van Tubergen, F. (2020). <i>Introduction to sociology</i>. Routledge.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| Assessment            |                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Assessment Components | Coursework: Essay 80%, Presentation 20%                                                                                                       |
| Assessment Details    | Failure to attend at least half of the tutorials will automatically result in a 10% deduction (one full grade) from the overall module grade. |

| Additional Information |                                                                   |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prerequisites          | <i>List any prerequisites, or enter 'None'</i>                    |
| Co-requisites          | <i>List any co-requisites, or enter 'None'</i>                    |
| Any other information  | <i>Anything else that should appear on the website (optional)</i> |