

SOU33011 – Researching Society 1

Module Information	
Module Code	SOU33011
Module Title	Researching Society 1
Department	Sociology
Year Group	Junior Sophister
Module Personnel	David Ralph
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	1 lecture per week, 1 tutorial per week

Module Content	
Module Description	This course applies qualitative research methods and strategies to sociological questions, helping students devise their own sociological project.
Module Learning Aims	Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various research methods; • Distinguish and apply suitable types of analysis to varying research designs; • Apply appropriate ethical standards to research design; • Understand issues of power, inequality and exploitation in qualitative research.
Learning Outcomes	• Design a social research project; • Understand the principles and assumptions associated with Qualitative research; • Select and justify the most appropriate research method to answer particular research questions;
Indicative Reading / Resources	• Gilbert, N. (ed) (2008) Researching Social Life, London: Sage. • Hammersley, M. and Atkinson, P. (2007) Ethnography: principles in practice, Routledge. • Seale, C. (ed) (2004) Researching Society and Culture, London: Sage. • Yin, R.K. (2009) Case Study Research, London: Sage

Module Content

	Part I of the module builds on the broad Introduction to Social Research in second year, which explored the range of techniques employed in qualitative methods, overviewed basic methods of qualitative analysis and began the process of developing written arguments. In particular the module will focus on designing and formulating a research project with corresponding sampling, data collection and analysis methods. This part of the module will also particularly focus on research proposal requirements.
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Assessment

Assessment Components	Research Proposal Outline 40%; Full Research Proposal 60%
Assessment Details	Proposal outline, 1000 words; full proposal, 2000 words

Additional Information

Prerequisites	This course is a pre-requisite for taking the Sociology Capstone in Senior Sophister
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	None