

SOU44052— Labour Markets, Gender and Institutions 2

Module Information	
Module Code	SOU44052
Module Title	Labour Markets, Gender and Institutions 2
Department	Sociology
Year Group	Senior Sophister
Module Personnel	Dr Camille Portier
Academic Year	2026-2027
Credit Weighting	10 ECTS
Semester	Hilary Term
Contact Hours	1 lecture per week + 1 tutorial

Module Content	
Module Description	This course introduces students to the sociological study of the labour market, with a sustained focus on gender. Drawing on both foundational and current scholarship, it examines how sociological theories and concepts illuminate the labour market as an engine of social stratification — and, above all, how women and men come to be sorted, rewarded, and valued differently in the world of work. A sociological lens is applied to the institutions and processes that shape working lives, from education systems and employers to the politics of gender, and how they relate to gender equality today. Topics include foundational theories of labour market sociology, technological change and the future of work, education and the school-to-work transition, gendered educational and occupational choices, the gender pay gap, occupational segregation and devaluation, discrimination in hiring and promotion, and the gendered polarisation of contemporary politics.
Learning Outcomes	- engage critically with the main theoretical approaches in the sociology of the labour market; - evaluate empirical evidence from (cross-national) labour market research;

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	• explain how technological change and education systems shape labour market stratification and the school-to-work transition; • analyse how gendered educational and occupational choices contribute to labour market inequality; • assess theories and evidence on the gender pay gap, occupational segregation, and discrimination in hiring and promotion; • account for how employers' decisions shape stratification in the labour market; • critically evaluate how digitalisation and technological trends (such as artificial intelligence) may influence the future of work and labour market inequality; • discuss the gendered polarisation of contemporary politics.
Indicative Reading / Resources	Blau, F. D., & Winkler, A. E. (2018). <i>The economics of women, men, and work</i> (8th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. Grusky, D. B. (Ed.). (2008). <i>Social Stratification: Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective</i> (3rd ed.). Boulder: Westview Press.

Assessment

Assessment Components	Group work 1 (25%); Group work 2 (25%); Coursework (50%)
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.