



Introduction to Sociology 2 | SOU11012/4

Year	Junior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22
Co-requisite	SOU11011/3
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Prof Daniel Faas
Contact Email	FAASD@tcd.ie

Module Outline:

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. The module provides a sociological understanding of the key social, demographic and economic transformations that have occurred in Ireland, Europe and globally in recent decades. It adopts a comparative approach to examine the increasing migration-related diversity of societies; the transition from agriculture to knowledge-based and digitalised societies; the changing role of families; religion in society and secularisation trends; the emergence and development of ethno-racial, political and sexual identities; as well as knowledge traditions, neoliberalisation and inequalities in education. Key concepts and theories used in international research on these sociological topics will also be introduced. Finally, the module will provide training how to write a successful social science essay and introduce students to the main quantitative and qualitative research methods.



Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, you will have acquired the ability to:

- Understand the main social, demographic, and economic changes in society, and explain why these topics have attracted the interest of sociologists and what the main challenges are.
- Discuss key concepts and sociological theories used in international social science research on topics such as migration, education, globalization, identities, gender, and religion.
- Use key concepts and sociological theories to frame a research problem, and understand the link between research literature, concepts/theories, and empirical data.
- Recognize which sociological methods to use in research situations and explain the reasoning for that selection.
- Articulate an informed and independent argument in essays, presentations, and discussions.

Assessment:

- 80% Essay due at the end of term (1,500-words)
- 20% Presentation (in the tutorial sessions)

Failure to attend at least half of the tutorials will automatically result in a 10% deduction (one full grade) from the overall module grade.

Recommended Reading List:

The main textbook for this module is: Macionis, J. and Plummer, K., 2012. *Sociology: A Global Introduction*, Harlow: Pearson Education/Prentice Hall Europe.

Each week, you are asked to read and prepare one or more chapters from our main textbook, as specified in the reading list. In addition, the Teaching Assistants will assign you readings in advance of the weekly tutorials. They will be placed on Blackboard Learn in the relevant folder 'Introduction to Sociology'.