DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
SOCIOLOGY

www.lboro.ac.uk/socialsci
Here in the Department of Social Sciences we want you to thrive as individuals. We’ll offer you a warm, supportive and well-organised environment to help you develop your academic skills and to grow as a person. Our students graduate with a well-rounded understanding of individuals and society, and the confidence and independence to prosper in the world of work.

As an undergraduate in Social Sciences you will have the opportunity to be taught by the very best. Our award winning Department houses teaching staff that are recognised for their world-leading research, developing our course content to be at the cutting-edge of social sciences advancement.

Not only will you benefit from the expertise of our teaching staff in an exciting study environment, but we endeavour to offer opportunities outside of your academic work. By offering a variety of extra opportunities we aim to provide you with a number of valuable experiences, enhancing your skills and understanding of the course.

As a department we are proud that 91% of our 2011 graduates are in employment or further study, six months after graduating (of those available). Some of these graduates have gone on to careers in Human Resources, Public Relations and the Voluntary Sector, to name but a few. Others are pursuing careers in research or furthering their study through our Masters courses.

As well as our award winning research influencing our teaching, we also have strong industry links with the likes of NSPCC, BBC and the Department of Health. These can, at times, provide us with live coursework projects and guest speakers preparing your for seamless entry into your chosen career.

Joining us at Loughborough not only provides you with excellent teaching, in an inspirational environment, but also offers you the outstanding opportunities to prepare ahead for your future, making you stand out in whatever profession you choose.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Professor David Deacon  
Head of Department  
Department of Social Sciences
WHY CHOOSE LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY?

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Choosing where to study is one of the hardest decisions you’ll make in life. Loughborough University makes it easier by offering a mix of excellent facilities and opportunities – all on a superb 438-acre single-site campus. Bringing together 17,000 students and staff from over 100 different countries, there is a strong sense of community and a real buzz about the University that has seen us voted England’s Best Student Experience six years in a row.

At the Centre of it All

Based in the heart of the rolling English countryside, but with easy access to the rest of the UK, Loughborough University welcomes students from all over the world. The University enjoys a well-established reputation for world-class research, innovative teaching and learning and industry relevance.

Our great all-round student experience develops well-rounded graduates. Indeed, our graduates are so highly regarded by a wide range of employers that in the 2013 Graduate Market Review (High Fliers) Loughborough was listed as the 13th most targeted university by recruiters. Our degree courses seek to develop presentation and team-working skills as well as creative problem-solving abilities – skills sought by employers. With the Careers and Employability Centre helping you plan your career, our careers fairs and drop-in sessions could put your CV in the hands of your future employer.

For further details visit: www.lboro.ac.uk/careers

Home from Home

Almost 6,000 of our students live in University halls of residence on (or very close to) campus and we offer the widest range of accommodation to suit all budgets and catering preferences. Undergraduates who confirm Loughborough as their first choice before the end of July are guaranteed a place in our halls. For further information: www.lboro.ac.uk/accommodation

Loughborough Life

The town itself is a thriving market town that offers you the convenience of shopping, dining, entertainment, nightlife and amenities on your doorstep. The cost of living is also considerably lower than most UK cities. However, with its central location, close proximity to Nottingham, Derby and Leicester, and rail links to London, city lights are always within easy reach, and Loughborough is a great base for exploring the county and beyond.
Industry’s Choice
We are proud of our strong relationships with industry, commerce and the professions in teaching, research and enterprise. Our collaborative links with global, blue-chip companies like Ford, adidas, Rolls-Royce and Caterpillar ensure the relevance of our commercial research. They also mean our degree courses are up-to-date and informed by the needs of organisations, with sponsorships, prizes and guest speakers adding value to your learning experience. Professional placement opportunities are also offered on many courses, giving you the chance to gain valuable work experience.

Research that Matters
The most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) confirmed Loughborough as one of the country’s Top-20 research universities with 18% of our research considered “world-leading”. With many academics involved in cutting-edge research addressing the immediate problems in social, economic and industrial practice, their work will directly inform your learning experience.

For more information visit: www.lboro.ac.uk/research

Students’ Union
The University has the only wholly independently owned Students’ Union in the country – run by the students for the students. A key player in creating the Loughborough experience, the Union offers entertainment in the form of bars, live comedy, performing arts and cinema, as well as being one of the largest music and dance venues in Leicestershire. In addition, it provides opportunities for volunteering, participation in clubs and societies, and charity fund-raising. Indeed, the fund-raising arm of the Union – Loughborough Rag – is the biggest and most successful in the UK, regularly raising £1m a year for a variety of charitable causes.

A Wealth of Opportunities
It’s not all about sport at Loughborough. With the Union offering more than 100 clubs and societies, covering everything from creative writing, computing and cocktails to Shakespeare, show choirs and salsa, opportunities abound to indulge an existing interest or discover brand new ones. Our lively arts programme is complemented by a book club, choirs, string orchestras and concert bands that are open to join. There’s never a dull moment at Loughborough. Your only problem might be trying to fit it all in.

Study Resources and Support
With so much going on, let’s not forget what you’re here for. Loughborough has a strong tradition of providing excellent student support – from state-of-the-art IT facilities available around the clock, award-winning mathematics support and library services. Wireless networking is available across the campus. In addition, we provide advice and support on careers, personal wellbeing, health, finance and legal matters, as well as support for students with disabilities, additional needs and mental health issues.

An International Perspective
Loughborough has a proud history of welcoming students from around the world and, today, is home to more than 2,500 international students who contribute greatly to a vibrant, diverse and lively community. Helping you settle in is a range of tailored support services, including bespoke English language learning courses, advice and support, a one-week residential orientation course held before the academic year, and the International Students’ Association – a friendly student-led association that helps with problems and organises social events. More information for international students can be found at: www.lboro.ac.uk/international

Sport for All
Of course, Loughborough is renowned worldwide for sporting excellence and counts Sebastian Coe, Paula Radcliffe and Steve Backley among its famous sporting alumni. However, the focus here is on providing sporting opportunities to all levels: from elite athlete to enthusiastic beginner. At Loughborough, there is an excellent array of sporting facilities covering the widest possible range of sports, including tennis, squash and badminton courts, sports pitches, all-weather play areas, the National Cricket Centre, the athletics stadium and our 50-metre swimming pool.
Sociology

The Sociology course at Loughborough provides you with state of the art understanding of social theories, rigorous research methods and key social phenomena, including migration, gender, health, new media, youth and crime and nationalism.

Sociologists study all aspects of social life including:

- How do families, economies, health-care, immigration, media, religious beliefs and organisations change? How do these changes affect individuals’ lives and societies?

- How are the details of our everyday life influenced by societal structures and processes?

- Why are some groups in society denied respect and opportunities? How did such inequalities emerge?

- Why did people in the past take certain beliefs for granted, such as ‘a woman’s place is in the home’? Are there equally questionable beliefs that we take for granted today?

Many key texts on Sociology reading lists are written by our lecturers, and we are as passionate about teaching as we are about conducting internationally excellent research. The unique advantage of the Loughborough Sociology course is that it is located in an interdisciplinary department. You can complement your studies with criminology and social policy, social psychology, and media and communications modules throughout the three years. Alternatively, you can choose to follow all Sociology modules within the course.

Why study Sociology at Loughborough University?

The Sociology course at Loughborough provides you with state of the art understanding of social theories, rigorous research methods and key social phenomena, including migration, gender, health, new media, youth and crime and nationalism.

Sociologists study all aspects of social life including:

- How do families, economies, health-care, immigration, media, religious beliefs and organisations change? How do these changes affect individuals’ lives and societies?

- How are the details of our everyday life influenced by societal structures and processes?

- Why are some groups in society denied respect and opportunities? How did such inequalities emerge?

- Why did people in the past take certain beliefs for granted, such as ‘a woman’s place is in the home’? Are there equally questionable beliefs that we take for granted today?

Many key texts on Sociology reading lists are written by our lecturers, and we are as passionate about teaching as we are about conducting internationally excellent research. The unique advantage of the Loughborough Sociology course is that it is located in an interdisciplinary department. You can complement your studies with criminology and social policy, social psychology, and media and communications modules throughout the three years. Alternatively, you can choose to follow all Sociology modules within the course.

About the Course

All teaching and learning is divided into a number of modules. Each module covers a specific topic and is given a credit value depending on how intensive the module is. In order to progress from year to year, you must successfully complete 120 credits in total.

Some of the modules you will study are compulsory, and therefore must be studies by all students. These usually cover fundamental theory and knowledge covering areas necessary to gain a solid understanding of social theory, research methods and key sociological issues, such as inequality.

Fundamentally the course covers the following areas: identities and inequalities (class, gender, race); research methods; global, social theory and global, social changes, such as migration.
Learning and Teaching
Learning and teaching is provided using a number of methods, including:

- Lectures – these are larger classes used to communicate knowledge or theory to a large number of students
- Tutorials – individual and small group work to look into the issues and topics raised during lectures in a much more in-depth way
- Laboratory based statistics sessions – these are designed for you to develop statistical and data analytic skills
- Self-study – this is directed study undertaken in your free time outside of timetables classes
- Seminars – smaller classes to allow group discussion. Often you will prepare verbal and/or visual presentation or discussion papers for these groups

Assessment
Assessment is carried out using a number of different methods. The type of method depends on the nature of the module. Methods include:

- Examinations
- Essays
- Reports
- Presentations
- In-class tests
- Multiple choice examinations
- Independent work exercise
- Dissertation

To find out more information about teaching, learning and assessment, please see our website: www.lboro.ac.uk/socialsci/sociology

Opportunities
As well as the excellent teaching provided on this course you can also benefit from a number of other opportunities to enhance your skills and experience. Opportunities include:

- Summer and year-long placements
- International exchange programme / European ERASMUS exchange programme
- Teaching year abroad
- Learn a foreign language
- Department seminars and lectures
- Sociology Society – student run social and career related activities

To find out more about these opportunities and how you can become involved in them, please see our website: www.lboro.ac.uk/socialsci/sociology

Career Opportunities
As a graduate of this course a wide range of careers are available to you. Possible careers include: journalism, public administration, social care, human resources management and politics.

The broad nature of the course also supports a large number of other careers where there appears to be no direct relationship to Sociology, for example the financial services.

Example career destinations:
- Graduate Scheme
- Ogilvy Healthworld
- Corporate Communications
- European Regions Airline Association
- Executive Officer, Department for Work and Pensions
- PR Assistant, Wardman Communications
- Recruitment Consultant, Client Server Ltd

92% of our 2012 students are satisfied with the quality of our course
NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY 2012

CONTACT DETAILS FOR ALL COURSES
T: +44 (0)1509 223365
E: ssenquiries@lboro.ac.uk

www.lboro.ac.uk/socialsci
Module Content

Year 1

Compulsory modules

Introduction to Sociology: Identities and Inequalities
This module introduces students to the nature of identity and the connections between identity and social inequality. We consider identities and inequalities related to gender, sexual identity, ‘race’, nationalism and religion.

Teaching: Lectures
Assessment: Coursework
Example coursework: Is ‘social class’ an outdated concept?

Sociological Imagination
This module offers students the opportunity to engage in sociological research from the very first year. Whilst discussing key aspects of contemporary sociology, you will select an area of interest and carry out a small-scale project exploring it from a sociological point of view. You will also be introduced to a variety of study skills.

Teaching: Seminars
Assessment: Project
Example coursework: Exploration of euthanasia and the dying right movement

Introduction to Quantitative Data Analysis 1 & 2
The first module focuses on developing data analysis and presentation skills by exploring data sets used by social scientists, such as the Census and the British Crime Survey. The second module explores how to conduct statistical analysis to test a research hypothesis and trains in using statistical software. The modules enhance students’ ability to conduct practical research and provide key skills vital for employability.

Teaching: Lectures and laboratory sessions

Optional modules

Plus a choice of modules based in the areas of Criminology and Social Policy, Communication and Media Studies, Social Psychology, Politics, Human Geography and Languages. Further details can be found on our website – www.lboro.ac.uk/socialsci/sociology

Year 2

Compulsory modules

Classical Social Theories
This module introduces students to key classical social theories. We examine and discuss classical social theories in their historical context, and apply them to understand social life, and male sense of the social fabric of modern society.

Teaching: Lectures
Assessment: Essays and exam
Example coursework: What is the basis of social solidarity in industrial societies according to Durkheim?

Sociology in Historical and Global Context
This module introduces students to historical sociology, focusing on the emergence of modern society. Topics include, for example, discourses on nationalism, imperialism, colonialism as well as historical processes of state formation and class formation and political struggles on a global level.

Teaching: Lectures
Assessment: Two essays

Social Research Methods
This module teaches students to use and evaluate main social research methods such as interviews, questionnaires and methods for analysing (new) media. The module is practice orientated with students conducting real-life mini-projects on a topic of their choice.

Teaching: Lectures, practical tutorials
Assessment: Tutorial assignments, mini-project, examination
Example coursework: You are studying UK students’ experiences of crime. Design a way of sampling participants for the study to make it representative.

Contemporary Social Theories
This module introduces you to key contemporary social theories. The module enables you to understand contemporary social theories in their historical context and be able to critically reflect upon them, apply them to understand current social life as well as appreciate their differences.

Teaching: Lectures
Assessment: Essay and exam

Sociology in Policy and Practice
This module enables you to take a sociological approach to public, political and applied issues. It introduces students to sociology’s role in government policy, practice, media and other organisations. It examines the dissemination of sociological research via policy documents, newspapers, documentaries, film and online social media.

Teaching: Seminars
Assessment: Essay
Example coursework: What are the main challenges that sociologists face when engaging with external groups such as the government, media and charities?
Advanced research methods
This innovative module focuses on advanced qualitative methods of data collection and interpretation. Students engage in the design and implementation of practical, mini-research projects, based on methods such as participant observation, Internet ethnography, photo elicitation and memory work.

Teaching: Seminars and tutorials
Assessment: Two mini-projects
Example coursework: Write down your experience of getting dressed this morning. Using the principles of ‘memory work’ analyse the gendered aspects of your experience.

Optional modules
Please see the list detailed below for Year 2 and Final Year.

Optional Placement Year

Final Year

Compulsory modules

The Individual and Society
This module familiarises students with the most important conceptions of society and the social in social theory. We will think sociologically about how individuals interact to produce social forms and are in their turn influenced by those social forms. A selection of theoretical perspectives on the relationship between individuals and the social will be discussed, which include, for example, the work of Marx, Weber, Parsons, Giddens, Bourdieu and Foucault.

Teaching: seminars
Assessment: A group presentation, an essay and a short examination
Example coursework: Analyse the relationship between an empirical study and a corresponding theoretical approach on the individual and the society.

Communicating Sociology
The module further develops student's awareness of the significance of sociology outside academia. It also enables students to apply and present sociological knowledge for non-academic audiences. The module encourages students to think about the relationship between sociology and the wider community, about applying and disseminating ideas and about engaging different audiences.

Teaching: lectures and workshops
Assessment: A communication portfolio including essay, presentation, and critical review
Example coursework: Prepare and deliver a short but engaging group presentation that translates a sociological study for a non-academic audience.

Sociology Dissertation
The final year project gives students the opportunity to complete a piece of sociological investigation of more substance and depth than other coursework, on a topic related to their own interests. Students learn how to organise and undertake an independent research project, to write a substantial structured document, and to present their thinking effectively.

Teaching: lectures, workshops and one-to-one and/or group supervision
Assessment: Dissertation of 10,14-00 words and a Project Poster
Example Assessment: Undertake and write-up an independent research project

Sociology of Gender
This module analyses contemporary gender relations in various contexts such as work, the family, religion, politics, education, and sport. The module also focuses on men and masculinities, and on sexualities. The claim that feminism is dead because we have now achieved gender equality will be explored and feminist thinking arising from women's movements, including liberal, radical and Marxist thought, as well as Black and Third World feminist thought, is also covered.

Teaching: seminars
Assessment: essay and exam
Example coursework: 'Today, women have achieved equality with men and feminism is no longer relevant'. Critically discuss this claim, using empirical evidence from one of the following areas of sociology: sport, sexualities, religion, work, families or politics.

Sociology of Health and Illness
This module analyses contemporary health issues from a sociological perspective. We will discuss how health and medicine have changed historically and how class, gender and ethnicity-based inequalities impact on health. We will also critically analyse contemporary issues such as 'the obesity epidemic', the Internet and health and increasing use of pharmaceuticals to enhance mental and physical performance.

Teaching: seminars
Assessment: essay and exam
Example coursework: Discuss how (i) structures of inequality and (ii) discourses on masculinity affect men's health.

Sociology of Religion
The secularisation thesis predicted the 'death of religion' in contemporary society, but individual religious belief is strong, and religious revival as well as an increasing politicisation of religious belief, has led to renewed sociological interest in religion. Topics covered in this module include secularisation and de-secularisation; rational choice theory; religion in the public sphere; the role of religion and spirituality in the everyday lives of individuals and groups; gender, migration and citizenship; Christian and Islamist forms of fundamentalists; and new religious movements.

Teaching: seminars
Assessment: essay and exam
Example coursework: Argue either for or against the 'secularisation thesis', using relevant theoretical and empirical literature to support your discussion.
Module Content continued...

Optional modules for Year 2 and Final Year
We offer a wide selection of optional modules, this list is indicative only:

**Sociology of Tourism**
This module covers: the origins and history of different types of tourism; the ways in which tourism destinations are socially constructed; the impacts of tourism on travellers and destinations; and some specific reasons for travel such as sex tourism and dark tourism. The emphasis is on providing a sociological perspective to understanding the significance of tourism and travel in contemporary societies, to counteract the dominance of economic and business models. Tourism and travel are central aspects of modern life, and human mobility intersects with a variety of social issues such as nation, citizenship, consumerism, and social exclusion.

*Teaching*: seminars
*Assessment*: essay and exam
*Example coursework*: Select one area of ‘niche’ tourism (for example sex, dark, or seaside tourism) and demonstrate how the theories outlined in the module can be used to understand it.

**Victimology**
Exploring how we have developed our knowledge and understanding of victims of crime, and the way in which this had changed over time. This module focuses on the risk factors of individual victims and the ways in which we can support victims. It also examines the overlap between offending and victimisation, and encourages critical discussion of victim rights issues.

*Teaching*: Lectures
*Assessment*: Coursework and examination
*Example coursework*: Should we rebalance the criminal justice system in favour of victims?

**Children, Young People and Risk**
Drawing on theories of youth crime and the sociology of childhood, this module looks at youth crime and anti-social behaviour from a children’s rights perspective; it also examines social policies and welfare approaches to children and young people and the conflicts between these and youth justice policies and interventions. The module also looks at media representations of children and young people including case studies on ‘hoodies’ and young carers.

*Teaching*: Lectures
*Assessment*: Coursework and examination
*Example coursework*: What are some of the ways in which the introduction of ASBOs have undermined the rights of children

**Promotional Culture: Public Relations, Advertising and Society**
In this module you will be learning about the developments in advertising and public relations. You will discuss the wider issues and debates surrounding these areas.

*Teaching*: lectures and seminars
*Assessment*: one written examination
*Example exam question*: What impact did the growth of advertising have on the mass media?

**Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism**
This module studies nationalism and cosmopolitanism as major elements in the constitution of modern societies. The first part of the module discusses the main dimensions in the study of nationalism (the modernity of nationalism, nationalism in the social sciences, ethnic and civic nationalism) and in the second part we move on to do likewise in relation to cosmopolitanism (cosmopolitanism in the social sciences, Kant’s theory of cosmopolitanism, crimes against humanity, post-nationalism, cosmopolitanism and globalisation).

*Teaching*: Lectures
*Assessment*: Essay and exam
*Example coursework*: Explain the role of language in ethnic and civic theories of nationalism

Please note that optional modules are subject to availability and timetable permitting.
Members of this team are nationally and internationally renowned for their specialist knowledge and expertise, and have published numerous groundbreaking books and articles. Their expertise and experience ensures the course content relevant and up-to-date.

Below is a list of our staff with their research interests. Full information about our staff can be found on our website: www.lboro.ac.uk/socialsci/staff

**Dr Daniel Chernilo**  
*Reader in Social and Political Thought*  
Daniel teaches on a variety of modules, which all seek to invite students to think sociologically. He also teaches an option course on nationalism and cosmopolitanism, which focuses on the relationships between our particular national and cultural identities and our universal belonging to the human species. He has published two books in English and two in Spanish on the history of social theory and nationalism and cosmopolitanism.

**Dr Dave Elder-Vass**  
*Senior Lecturer in Sociology*  
Dave teaches on a variety of core sociology modules and runs a series of workshops in the third year that help students with their dissertation projects. He also offers ‘Debating Society’ - an innovative option module that consists of debates between students on popular recent books on sociological issues. His research interests are sociological theory and economic sociology, particularly in the new digital environment, and he has published two books with Cambridge University Press.

**Dr Christian Greiffenhagen**  
*Lecturer in Sociology*  
Christian has an interdisciplinary background in sociology and computer science. He teaches introduction to sociology, classical social theories and different ways of applying sociology e.g. working with computer scientists. His research focuses on the interface between society and technology, seeking to understand how social life is transformed by new scientific and technological developments and how we can use social research to design ‘better’ technologies.

**Dr Karen Lumsden**  
*Lecturer in Sociology*  
Karen teaches on the core modules Understanding Contemporary Societies, Sociology in Policy and Practice, and Research Methods. Karen’s research interests include the sociology of crime and deviance, youth, car culture, policing, and qualitative methods. She is the author of a range of academic journal articles and the book Boy Racer Culture: Youth, Masculinity and Deviance.

**Professor Jim McGuigan**  
*Professor of Cultural Analysis*  
Jim teaches about social theory, culture and capitalism. In the past, he has worked for the Arts Council of Great Britain and BBC Television. He has published several books, most recently Cool Capitalism (2009) and Cultural Analysis (2010); and many articles in academic and popular journals. His work has been translated into Chinese, Farsi, German, Japanese, Korean and Spanish. He has served on research panels for the British Arts and Humanities Research Council and the European Commission.

**Professor Karen O’Reilly**  
*Professor of Sociology*  
Karen teaches qualitative research methods, the sociology of tourism, social class and exclusion, and migration. She is especially interested in how tourism and migration overlap and intersect, and the implications of this for communities, ethnic identities, and social stratification. Her research has involved participant observation in Spain, Malaysia, and the East Midlands, and she has written books about the British in Spain, Migration and Social Theory, and Ethnographic Methods.

**Dr Line Nyhagen Predelli**  
*Reader in Sociology*  
Line teaches sociology of gender, the sociology of religion and research methods. Her research focuses on social movements, including the missionary movement, the environmental movement, and women’s movements; she also analyses gender and citizenship in relation to Christianity, Islam and migration. Her latest book explores ethnicity and women’s movements in Europe.

**Dr Paula Saukko**  
*Reader in Social Science and Medicine*  
Paula teaches qualitative research methods, sociology of health and illness and new media. Her recent research focuses on prevention of lifestyle related diseases and the way in which health becomes part of consumer lifestyle, as in online, commercial genetic testing or use of mobile health ‘apps.’ She has written extensively for sociological and medical audiences and her work has been funded by, for example, the Department of Health and the Wellcome Trust.

**Dr Iris Wigger**  
*Lecturer in Sociology*  
Iris teaches on a range of modules helping students to understand key sociological themes and theories early in their studies. Iris also offers two optional modules on exploring representations of ‘race’ and racism and on the history of stereotyping. Her research includes work on the origin of racialised discourses and the History of Ideas in the West. Her latest publications focus on ‘race’, nation, gender, and class as interconnected categories of difference and discrimination.
Voted England’s
Best Student
Experience
for six years running
The Times Higher Education
2006/7 – 2011/12

Department of Social Sciences
Loughborough University  Leicestershire  LE11 3TU
T: +44 (0)1509 223365
E: ssenquiries@lboro.ac.uk

www.lboro.ac.uk/socialsci

follow @lborouniversity

www.facebook.com/lborouniversity

www.youtube.com/lborouniversity