

## Programme specification

### BA (Hons) Sociology

<i>School:</i>	Psychological and Social Sciences
<i>Entry from:</i>	September 2018
<i>Awarding Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching Institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery Location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s Accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit Awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Sociology Diploma of Higher Education Sociology BA (Ord) Sociology
<i>UCAS Code:</i>	L300
<i>Joint Honours Combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA Benchmark Group(s):</i>	Sociology 2007
<i>Mode/s of Study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years
<i>Language of Study:</i>	English

---

#### Introduction and Special Features

BA (Hons) Sociology draws upon staff expertise within sociology to offer you a broad curriculum in sociology with modules designed to develop your ability to understand a range of sociological theories alongside modules which offer the opportunity to apply these theories. The course is designed to make sociology relevant to you by providing opportunities to explore your own social identity and to consider how you experience the social world. In doing this it provides opportunities to explore life-chances within a diverse and dynamic social world. You will be assessed in a range of ways but we do not use exams. The University is committed to the use of formative assessment and there will always be opportunities for you to get feedback on your work throughout the course. We are fortunate in that almost all staff are members of the Higher Education Academy and have teaching qualifications.

In addition to this your sociological imagination is supported by modules which develop the capacity to design and carry out a sociological investigation by Level 6. This provides you with an opportunity to carry out a piece of extended research which pursues something that you have a real interest in. Students typically engage with this very well and we have previously been able to publish student work in respected journals. The University is committed to developing the research capacity of its students and there are other opportunities for you to be involved in carrying out and presenting your own research.

As part of the opportunities provided by BA Sociology at YSJU students will be able to study abroad. In a programme which does much to explore social and cultural practices the opportunity to experience a different culture whilst studying is seen as particularly worthwhile. We see studying abroad as contributing not only to your academic development but also to your personal development.

As part of your academic development, assignments will foster critical and original thinking to enhance your employment potential at the end of the course. A recent report by the Higher Education Statistics Agency illustrates that Social Science graduates out-perform graduates in other areas in respect of progressing to employment or further training. Alongside this, the Faculty has excellent relationships with local organisations who often provide our students with

opportunities for voluntary work. As such, we are very confident that you will have opportunities to develop skills that are valued by employers.

In summary, this is an exciting opportunity to develop sociological understanding and work-related skills within a vibrant and growing department.

### Admissions Criteria

The University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) apply.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

### Programme Aims

The BA (Hons) Sociology programme aims to enable students to demonstrate:

1. an ability to apply key concepts and theoretical approaches that have been developed, and are developing, within sociology
2. an awareness of the nature of social processes
3. the ability to explain sociological accounts of social diversity and inequality
4. an ability to make comparative analysis
5. a critical awareness of the relationship between individuals, groups and social institutions
6. the role of culture in social life
7. critical awareness of the social processes underpinning social change
8. the use of a range of qualitative and quantitative research strategies and methods
9. an ability to offer sociological arguments based upon appropriate evidence
10. an awareness of the distinctive character of sociology in relation to other forms of understanding and to everyday explanations.

### Programme Learning Outcomes

These Learning Outcomes are described in terms of the Quality Assurance Agency's 'Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland', January 2007

These Learning Outcomes are mapped against the Subject Aims in Appendix 4. Students who gain the award specified will have demonstrated the following learning outcomes:

#### Level 4 / FHEQ L4 Certificate of Higher Education

1. Demonstrate a broad-based knowledge and understanding of a range of underlying concepts, content and theoretical perspectives associated with studying sociology.
2. Effectively explain different sociological perspectives.
3. Present, evaluate and interpret different forms of information, evidence, data, artefacts and performances appropriate to the study of sociology.
4. Communicate effectively using a range of skills appropriate for the audience and purpose.

5. Demonstrate a range of key transferable skills (including those for lifelong learning) appropriate for further study.

### **Level 5 / FHEQ L5 Diploma of Higher Education**

1. Apply theoretical perspectives and concepts to a range of issues relevant to the field of sociology.
2. Demonstrate a critical awareness of research strategies that are relevant to the study of sociology.
3. Critically analyse data and information relevant to the study of sociology.
4. Communicate subject-relevant information, ideas and arguments effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
5. Demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively in decision-making in the context of growing maturity as an independent learner.

### **Level 6 / FHEQ L6 Ordinary Degree**

1. Show proficiency in using sociological theories and principles in the analysis and solution of complex problems.
2. Demonstrate critical evaluation of research strategies associated with sociology.
3. Proficiently use and communicate approaches to the evaluation of qualitative and quantitative data relevant to the study of sociology.
4. Acquire, organise and communicate information, ideas and arguments, showing an understanding of the significance and limitations of knowledge in the field of sociology.
5. Critically evaluate and apply sociological theory and principles to a range of issues.

### **Honours Degree: In addition to an Ordinary Degree students will:**

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the relationship between theoretical and empirical knowledge in the discipline of sociology.
2. Devise and sustain critical commentary on advanced studies in the discipline of sociology.
3. Manage and reflect critically upon own learning.
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of uncertainty and ambiguity in respect of some sociological knowledge.
5. Apply skills, concepts, theoretical and empirical knowledge, and methods appropriate to the study of sociology to initiate, design, plan and execute research.
6. Demonstrate an ability to reach reasoned judgements about arguments and evidence based upon sound critical analysis and an understanding of different value positions.
7. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in a range of decision-making contexts related to their studies.

### **Programme Structure**

The course reflects a number of themes which run throughout the three levels and which provide an element of coherence to the structure. The themes are defined below, as is their position within the course as a whole. SC001 at each level represents the development of social theory from theories which emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the emerging critical approaches of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The strand develops an understanding of social theory culminating in post-modern theories. SC002 at each level represents the development of approaches towards sociological investigation culminating in the undertaking of an independent study. In addition, themes reflecting social divisions, education, religion and deviance are all embedded within the course. The aim is to develop independence within the student so that by Level 6 they are working independently and are able to make best use of YSJU facilities. As such, students receive a broad sociological education and experience, though significant flexibility will be evident within assignments. As part of the development of reflective

approaches students are required to draw upon their own lives and to consider how their life chances are shaped by social forces.

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
1SC001	4	1	Introduction to Sociological Thought	20	C
1SC002	4	1	Investigating Sociologically	20	C
1SC003	4	1	Social Inequalities: Classical Debates	20	C
1SC004	4	2	Identity, Discourse and Ideology	20	C
1SC006	4	2	The Sociology of Deviance	20	C
1SC007	4	2	Childhood	20	C
2SC001	5	1	Contemporary Developments in Sociological Thought	20	O
2SC006	5	1	Violence and Reconciliation	20	O
2SC004	5	1	Social Inequalities: Contemporary Debates	20	O
2SC008	5	1	Families and the State	20	O
2SC002	5	2	Designing Sociological Investigations	20	C
2SC003	5	2	The Sociology of Work	20	O
2SC005	5	2	Sociology of Religion	20	O
2SC007	5	2	Quantitative Sociological Investigations	20	C
3SC011	6	1	Advanced Social Theory	20	O
3SC002	6	1+2	Sociological Investigation	40	C
3SC005	6	1	Sociology of Murder	20	O
3SC006	6	1	Youth and Resistance	20	O
3SC007	6	1	Taming of Education	20	O
3SC022	6	1	Technology and Society	20	O
3SC008	6	2	Spatial Sociology	20	O
3SC004	6	2	Gender, Sexualities and Media Representations	20	O
3SC010	6	2	Death and Mortality	20	O
3SC026	6	2	Health, Illness and Society	20	O

\***C**: Compulsory, **CP**: Compulsory for progression to the next level, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

York St John University has an established scheme for students to study abroad. You will be able to undertake study abroad whilst on this programme. This also involves accepting students from overseas and it is envisaged that overseas students taking BA (Hons) Sociology modules will contribute to an overall awareness of the social and cultural nature of our lives. YSJU students who take part in the study abroad scheme will spend Semester 1 of year two abroad.

### Teaching, Learning and Assessment

You will experience a range of teaching styles and settings and a variety of approaches to learning. Classes will generally involve tutor-led input interspersed with student activities. Activities may include small group work, discussions, guided reading and library-based research leading to feedback alongside seminars (small groups of students with a tutor) and tutorials (one-to-one meetings with a tutor). Some modules employ lectures. In addition, there is a major emphasis on independent study outside of formal teaching sessions. This 'supported open learning' (SOL) will include directed reading tasks, student-based project work, engaging with the online virtual learning environment (VLE) and the Learning Centre and encouragement to attend guest lectures and research seminars. The range of resources is designed to enable you to work collaboratively and build your knowledge beyond guided reading. Sociology is such

a rich and varied discipline that you must be able and willing to explore the depth of knowledge and experience at your disposal.

Although learning about the discipline of sociology is important the development of academic skills is not overlooked and there will be various activities which are aimed at making you more effective in the work that you produce whilst on the course. As part of this, skills which are valued by employers, such as communication, presentational and organisational skills are intrinsic to assignments.

Throughout the course, you are encouraged to take an active part in teaching sessions rather than be a passive recipient of knowledge. You will be expected to arrive with questions and ideas that reflect your reading. There will be opportunities to lead part of some sessions. It is through doing this that you will examine, defend, justify, refine and reflect on your ideas.

Year 1 has the most contact time to ensure that you have a sound grounding in the subject area in key modules, this is reduced in Levels 2 and 3 in order to develop your autonomy, whilst still providing a supportive environment. At Level 6, you will be expected to engage in critical enquiry-based learning to develop your individual autonomous reasoning, analytical and research skills to a high standard.

You will be assigned an academic tutor in addition to module tutors. The role of the academic tutor is to provide additional support with your studies where necessary. In addition to this support the university provides extensive support in a range of academic skills, such as writing assignments and the use of the library for locating relevant information.

### **Assessment approaches**

York St John University is committed to embedding formative assessment as part of its approach to teaching, learning and assessment. The intention is to ensure that you receive on-going feedback relating to your learning and development which will assist you in being successful in your studies. You will encounter a range of assessment approaches which are designed to enable you to develop a range of skills and meet the learning outcomes detailed earlier. Formative and summative assessment will be by a variety of methods appropriate to the specified Learning Outcomes for the programme, the level, and the specific module.

Your assessment load will increase in terms of the length of submission by Year 3. You will be given assessment criteria that will vary depending on the assessment task. Assessment will be phased in such a way as to avoid assessment deadlines producing an unnecessary burden. Most modules will be by electronic submission and marked anonymously.

### **Progression and Graduation Requirements**

The University's [general regulations for undergraduate awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

### **Internal and External Reference Points**

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

### **Further Information**

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student programme handbook (school)
- Module handbooks (school)

---

*Date written / revised:* 010/07/2014, July 2017

QSC PASP approved study abroad opportunity to be included from 2016

QSC PASP Nov 2017 amendments.

28.5.19 QSC PASP approved option modules 3SC022 and 3SC026 to be delivered