

1. Programme Title(s) and Code(s):

<i>Programme Title</i>	<i>UCAS Code</i>	<i>GU Code</i>
MA (Social Sciences) with Honours in Sociology		L300-2308

2. Academic Session:

2018-19

3. SCQF Level (see [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Levels](#)):

10

4. Credits:

480

5. Entrance Requirements:

Please refer to the current undergraduate prospectus at:
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/prospectuses/undergraduate/>

6. ATAS Certificate Requirement (see [Academic Technology Approval Scheme](#)):

ATAS Certificate not required

7. Attendance Type:

Full Time

8. Programme Aims:

Sociology is a core Social Science discipline which is concerned with developing knowledge and understanding of the world from a distinctly 'social' point of view by focussing on the relations that connect individuals, groups and institutions. Sociology's central concerns are the conceptualisation of society and social interaction; the conceptualisation of and relationships

¹ This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course handbooks and other programme documentation and online at www.gla.ac.uk/

The accuracy of the information in this document is reviewed periodically by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

between action/agency and social structure; the conceptualisation of micro and macro levels of social analysis, and relationships between these; and the social aspects of the constitution of the individual including the self, subjectivity and embodiment. Sociological theories offer variable accounts of the nature of relationships between society and individuals. Sociology is a discipline which, by identifying the specificity of societies through historical and comparative perspectives, facilitates critiques of contemporary societies, particularly in relation to issues of power and inequality. In particular, sociology seeks to understand how societies, institutions and practices of all kinds came into being, how they are currently organised and how they might change in the future. The discipline of sociology developed in the 19th and 20th centuries as attempts were made to examine these issues in 'modern' 'Western' societies. Today, in an age of globalisation, in order to understand modern society, we increasingly need to look beyond our own boundaries. The sociology undergraduate programme at the University of Glasgow is particularly well placed to do so because of its integration with social anthropology. This integration has been highlighted by our external examiners as something that is distinctive about, and particularly well achieved, by our Subject. We offer a wide variety of courses at Honours level which reflect a diversity of staff research interests including media, criminology and criminal justice, disability, identity, violence, racism, ethnicity, nationalism, sexuality, consumption, gambling, religion, youth and employment, development, global movements, and post-colonialism. Staff members have carried out research in Britain, other European countries, Latin America and the USA. A wide range of teaching methods is used including project work as well as traditional lectures, seminars and workshops. A degree in Sociology from the University of Glasgow prepares students for employment in a number of fields that require a sophisticated/critical/questioning understanding of the workings of society. Past graduates are now employed in the media, city councils, development agencies, market research, data analysis, business management, housing, education, etc. A number of our students have also entered post graduate studies.

This degree programme aims:

- to provide students with knowledge and understanding of sociological theories and research methods
- to give students opportunities to develop practical skills in the gathering, analysis, presentation and discussion of sociological data
- to develop an awareness of the ethical implications of carrying out sociological research
- to enable students to engage reflexively with the particularities of their own cultural and social contexts as well as with the possibilities inherent in cross cultural comparison
- to develop in students the ability to apply their knowledge and practical skills to solving sociologically based research problems
- to enable students to enhance their transferable and inter-personal skills, particularly in communication, time management, individual and group research work, critical appraisal of social issues, and the informed use of information technology
- to provide students with a wide range of skills that will meet the demands of the modern labour market

9. Intended Learning Outcomes of Programme:

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and Understanding

This degree programme provides opportunities for students:

- to develop and demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental concepts, principles, theories and methods of sociology
- to make use of the approaches offered by sociology in seeking to investigate and understand social and cultural phenomena
- to deploy appropriate historical and cross-cultural evidence in the assessment of theoretical, social and public policy arguments

Skills and Other Attributes

Subject-specific/practical skills

This degree programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the ability:

- to judge and evaluate evidence concerning the social world
- to appreciate the complexity and diversity of social situations
- to assess the merits of competing theories and explanations
- to gather, retrieve and synthesise information
- to carry out sociological research
- to critically evaluate/assess other people's research on social issues
- to make reasoned arguments
- to interpret evidence and texts
- to reflect on their own acquisition and accumulation of knowledge

Intellectual skills

This degree programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the ability:

- to formulate and investigate sociologically informed questions
- to use major theoretical perspectives and concepts in sociology and their applications
- to analyse, assess and communicate empirical sociological information
- to identify a range of different research strategies and methods and to comment on their relative advantages and disadvantages
- to conduct research into social issues
- to undertake and present scholarly work
- to understand the ethical implications of sociological enquiry
- to recognise and argue for the relevance of sociological knowledge to social policy or to non-academic situations

Transferable/key skills

This degree programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the ability

- to think logically, analytically and critically about social and cultural issues
- to adopt a structured approach to solving research problems
- to use both qualitative and quantitative research methods
- to develop information retrieval skills in relation to primary and secondary sources of information
- to structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in a variety of written forms
- to develop communications and information technology skills
- to work effectively both independently and in groups
- to manage time and meet deadlines
- to develop inter-personal skills
- to appreciate and understand processes of social change

10. Typical Learning and Teaching Approaches:

One of the strengths of our programme is the close links between staff research interests and the material covered in lectures.

A variety of learning and teaching approaches are used at Levels 1 and 2 and in our Honours courses. Knowledge and understanding is developed through lectures, tutorials (levels 1 and 2),

seminars/workshops (honours level) and independent research. The lectures lay out central ideas, demonstrate the ways in which arguments are evaluated in the light of evidence and research experiences, and provide important empirical and historical knowledge. Lectures often include illustrative material, which can include visual historical evidence, ethnographic film and material derived from appropriate textual, media and on-line sources. Students are encouraged through engagement with such illustrative material to recognise how arguments refer to empirical evidence, and to understand the practice of sociological investigation and interpretation.

In all respects, the lectures are intended to lay the groundwork for independent study on the part of students. This study is guided by the provision of reading lists which refer students to important textual and on-line sources, and which are also practical examples in the protocols of academic referencing. Independent study provides the primary context in which knowledge and understanding is developed and serves as basis for both the preparation of assessed work, and for participation in seminar, tutorial or workshop discussions. Seminar or workshop sessions at honours level are designed to provide a collaborative context in which interpretations can be tested, arguments formulated and considered and knowledge transferred between peers. They encourage the development of team work and of important communication and inter-personal skills. As a discipline, sociology encourages the practice of reflective consideration of an individual's own experience. Seminars and workshops provide a context in which such reflection can take place, and the differences between merely anecdotal and properly scientific forms of evidence can be discussed and established.

Feedback on both formal and indicative assessment provides students with enhanced understanding of both the substantive content of the course, and of the central intellectual and communication skills which the course seeks to develop: clarity, summary, synthesis, etc.

11. Typical Assessment Methods:

Across our Honours teaching programme a wide variety of assessments are used. These include:

- Essays and other forms of written work, including reports and reviews (formative and summative)
- Projects (summative)
- Unseen written examinations of various types (summative)

Dissertation

12. Programme Structure and Features:

The Single Honours Sociology degree programme extends over four years of full time study. You need to be in the College of Social Science and the resulting degree is called an M.A. (Social Science) (Hons) degree.

Year 1

Course	Level	Credits
Sociology 1a	1	20
Sociology 1b	1	20
40 credits in Social Science	1	40
40 credits in another approved subject (social science, arts of science)	1	40
Total Credits = 120		

Year 2

Course	Level	Credits
Sociology 2a	2	20

Sociology 2b	2	20
Other Arts or Social Science Subjects	1	40
Other Arts or Social Science Subjects	2	40
Total Credits = 120		

Entry to Honours Sociology normally requires a D3 or better in Sociology 1a and 1b and C3 or better in Sociology 2a and 2b. Students must also meet the College requirements for progression to honours.

Year 3 Honours

Course	Level	Credits
Social Theory	3 or 4*	20
Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences	3 or 4*	20
Qualitative Methods in the Social Sciences	3 or 4*	20
Three Other Sociology Courses	3 or 4*	60
Total Credits = 120		

Year 4 Honours

Course	Level	Credits
General Paper	4	20
Dissertation	4	40
Three Other Sociology Courses	3 or 4*	60
Total Credits = 120		

* While Social Theory, Understanding Social Research and Understanding Qualitative Research are compulsory third year course for Single Honours Sociology Students, Joint Honours sociology students have to take either quantitative or qualitative methods and can take both in addition to social theory.

Year 3 Non-Honours

Students who do not qualify for entry to Honours, or who would prefer to complete a degree in three rather than four years might be eligible for the M.A. or the M. A. (Social Science) degree. Our Subject does not run a Sociology 3 course. Rather, students make up an equivalent number of credits by taking the aforementioned three core courses at level 3.

Principal Honours

Sociology may be taken as Principal Honours in which up to 60 credits of courses are taken from a different discipline. Principal Honours students are required to do the compulsory courses listed above.

13. Programme Accredited By:

14. Location(s):

Glasgow

15. College:

College of Social Sciences

16. Lead School/Institute:

Social and Political Sciences [REG40500000]

17. Is this programme collaborative with another institution:

No

18. Awarding Institution(s):

University of Glasgow

19. Teaching Institution(s):**20. Language of Instruction:**

English

21. Language of Assessment:

English

22. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (see [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Sociology.pdf)) and Other External or Internal Reference Points:

The programme is designed with reference to the benchmark statements of Sociology:
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Sociology.pdf>

23. Additional Relevant Information (if applicable):

Support for students is provided by the Postgraduate/Undergraduate Adviser(s) of Studies supported by University resources such LEADS (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/leads/), Counselling & Psychological Services (www.gla.ac.uk/services/counselling/), the Disability Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/studentdisability/) and the Careers Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/careers/).

Feedback From Students

Feedback from students is gained through course questionnaires, comments on our VLE and through class representatives. Elected representatives from Levels 1, 2 and Honours are members of the Staff-Student Committee. Feedback on proposed changes to courses or to the programme are sought from the students via the class reps and our VLE site. We value feedback from our students and communicate back to them via our VLE and class reps. Student representation on other University committees (such as Senate) is the responsibility of the Students' Representative Council (SRC).

24. Online Learning:

No

25. Date of approval:

