



# SOCIOLOGY

---

[gold.ac.uk/sociology](http://gold.ac.uk/sociology)

Undergraduate

Goldsmiths  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Sociology at Goldsmiths is active, contemporary and inventive. We are as interested in the global issues of poverty and injustice as we are in the micro issues of identity and presentation of self.

Goldsmiths' Department of Sociology pushes the discipline forward. As pioneers in 'live sociology', we focus on social problems, using innovative methods and celebrating the sociological imagination.

You'll not only delve into the topics of class and stratification, race, gender, and power, but also the digital, the body, culture and cities.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

## Why choose Sociology at Goldsmiths?

**We're ranked in the world's best.** Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 rankings placed Goldsmiths ninth in the UK for the quality of our sociology research\*, and the QS World University Rankings 2017 have placed us 37th in the world.

**We're experimental.** You'll get to test out your ideas and get to take part in the latest developments in the field. All our staff teach their own specialisms, which means you'll be the first to find out about the latest research.

**We are active.** You'll be generating data of your own, conducting primary research, and experiencing what it means to be a sociologist from day one. Your first-class data analysis skills will set you up for success in your future career.

**We're welcoming.** You can let us know what you think through a combination of lectures, small group seminars, practical workshops and field trips, all led by an approachable team of award-winning staff.

\*Based on the Times Higher Education research intensity subject rankings

# WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the scientific study of how and why humans behave the way they do when they interact in groups.

What is the relationship between social structures and social actions?

Is gentrification ever a good thing?

Why do greed, hatred, violence and destruction exist?

How and why does the media manufacture fear?

Race, gender and class: the 'holy trinity' of sociology?

To study and engage with sociology can be transformative; once you've developed a sociological imagination the world will never be the same for you again.

“

George Orwell argued that the many people who would benefit from socialism, and should logically support it, are in practice likely to be strong opponents. Why?



“

“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.” Whether you agree or disagree with the views of Karl Marx, sociology will give you the skills to back up your argument in detail.

# OUR DEGREES

BA (Hons) Sociology

BA (Hons) Media & Sociology

BA (Hons) Anthropology  
& Sociology

BA (Hons) Sociology & Politics

BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy  
& Economics

BA (Hons) Sociology & Chinese

BA (Hons) Sociology  
with Criminology

BA (Hons) Criminology

BA (Hons) Religion

## BA (Hons) Sociology

3 years full-time  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-sociology](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-sociology)

In your first year you'll take four compulsory modules that get you thinking sociologically and critically. You'll address problems that interest sociologists in their attempts to account for the world we live in. You'll investigate cultural and social processes, grasp key aspects about the functioning of power and social value, and learn the methods that sociologists use to produce sociological knowledge.

In your second year, you will consider questions about the growth and development of the modern state, about the role of communication and culture in contemporary societies, and about the dynamics of globalisation. You will learn more advanced methods of social research and you will be able to choose from a range of specialist option modules.

In addition to your compulsory module in Contemporary Social Theory and Society, your third year is an opportunity to choose four modules from a range of specialist areas. These specialist areas currently cover childhood matters; citizenship and human rights; race and racism; vision, truth and knowledge; gender; visual explorations of the social world; sociologies of emerging worlds; privacy, surveillance and security; and subjectivity, health and medicine.

Moreover, in your final year you will be able to focus on a substantial piece of sociological research in your dissertation.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Critical Readings:  
The Emergence of  
Sociological Rationality  
Researching Society  
and Culture 1  
Modern Knowledge,  
Modern Power  
Culture and Society

### Year 2

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Central Issues in  
Sociological Analysis  
The Making of the  
Modern World  
Philosophy and Methodology  
of the Social Sciences  
Sociology of Culture  
and Communication  
Researching Society  
and Culture 2

*Plus two options (see page 15)*

### Year 3

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Contemporary Social  
Theory and Society  
Dissertation

*Plus four options (see page 17)*

# BA (Hons) Media & Sociology

**3 years full-time**  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-media-sociology](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-media-sociology)

This interdisciplinary degree brings together modules from two of the leading academic departments at Goldsmiths to offer you an in-depth understanding of contemporary social life and the place of media and communications within it. The degree will give you practical skills that you can apply in the workplace together with knowledge of social theories and the latest research from the disciplines of media and communications and sociology.

In your first year you'll take three modules from media and communications, which cover the history of the press and broadcasting, the emergence of cultural studies and topics such as free speech, censorship and radical media. You'll also take three modules from sociology, covering classical and contemporary theories of society, and one module that is jointly taught by the two departments that focuses explicitly on the connections between the two disciplines.

In your second year you'll take your first media practice module in which you'll work on a small-scale media production project using our industry-standard facilities. Alongside this you'll take another compulsory module in media and communications, and choose two further media modules from options that include the relationship between the media and psychology, money, and conflict.

Your three compulsory sociology modules examine key issues in sociological analysis such as the relationships between individual lives and cultural institutions. You'll also be introduced to philosophical ideas that examine debates about the nature of social reality and how we produce and communicate knowledge about social life.

In your third year, you'll take a second media practice module and develop your own areas of interest further through a supervised dissertation. You'll also be able to choose two more media modules and two more sociology modules.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Media and the Social  
Media History and Politics  
Culture and Cultural Studies  
Key Concepts and Debates in Media  
Modern Knowledge, Modern Power  
Researching Society and Culture

---

### Year 2

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Media Production - option 1  
Central Issues in Sociological Analysis  
Philosophy and Methodology of the Social Sciences  
Sociology of Culture and Communication

*Plus one sociology option (see page 15)*

*Plus two media options such as:*

Money and the Media  
Television and After  
Media, Memory and Conflict

---

### Year 3

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Dissertation  
Media Production - option 2

*Plus two sociology options (see page 17)*

*Plus two media options such as:*

Media, Ethnicity and Nation  
Media Audiences and Media Geographies  
Music as Communication and Creative Practice

# BA (Hons) Anthropology & Sociology

**3 years full-time**  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-anthropology-sociology](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-anthropology-sociology)

Sociology looks at the structure of society and at the behaviour of organised groups of people, from the 19th century to the present day. Anthropology looks at human beings across different times and places, environmental and social relations, and culture. Anthropology is the study of the human species, from politics to language.

In your first year, you'll get to know the main theories within anthropology and understand ethnography and anthropological methodological practice. Your compulsory sociology modules cover key texts and thinkers and look at the discipline's distinguishing features.

In your second year you'll choose one sociology option then take six compulsory modules: two from sociology, three from anthropology and a 'link' module across both disciplines.

You'll consider the anthropology of religion, morals and symbolism, and explore interactions between current changing economic and political structures. In the link module, you'll become familiar with methodological and philosophical issues in both disciplines.

In your third year, a compulsory link module allows you to examine how the world has changed since classical sociological theory was developed. You can complete a supervised dissertation in either department and select from a range of sociology and anthropology options.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Critical Readings: The Emergence of Sociological Rationality  
Modern Knowledge, Modern Power  
Introduction to Social Anthropology  
Anthropological Methods  
Ethnography of a Selected Region I

---

### Year 2

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Central Issues in Sociological Analysis  
The Making of the Modern World  
Anthropology of Religion  
Anthropology and the Visual  
Politics, Economics and Social Change

Methodological and Philosophical Issues in Sociology and Anthropology

*Plus one sociology option (see page 15)*

---

### Year 3

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Theorising Contemporary Society  
*Plus at least two sociology options (see page 17)*

*Plus at least two anthropology options such as:*

Anthropology of Art  
Anthropology of Human-Animal Relations  
Gender Theory in Practice

*You may also choose to do a dissertation in anthropology or sociology*

# BA (Hons) Sociology & Politics

**3 years full-time**  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-sociology-politics](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-sociology-politics)

Sociology and politics are two sides of the same coin: sociology studies all kinds of society, organised or un-organised, while politics is a science of state and government and focuses only on politically organised societies. And politics at Goldsmiths is not simply about what happens in the Houses of Parliament. It's about what happens on the streets, in art galleries, and in the non-Western world.

The compulsory sociology modules in your first year will introduce you to sociological research methods and the 'sociological imagination'. You'll study the key concepts in political theory in your compulsory politics module. These concepts include the state, democracy, freedom, rights, power and authority. You'll also choose one politics option.

In your second year, you'll look at how to study a society, encompassing issues of agency and structure, class and conflict, political action and social change. You'll consider the making of the modern world and its sociological context in three compulsory sociology modules, and you'll choose one sociology option.

In your politics modules, you'll examine how the subject has become associated with social movements, environmentalism and globalisation. Your compulsory politics module, Modern Political Theory, is coupled with a choice from a range of politics options.

In your third year, you'll take the compulsory module Theorising Contemporary Society, in which you'll look at topics such as recent and contemporary capitalism, developments in the economy, technology and the future, and politics and social movements. You'll choose two politics module options and complete a supervised dissertation on a topic you'd like to pursue.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Researching Society and Culture  
Modern Knowledge,  
Modern Power  
Ideas, Ideologies and Conflicts

#### *Plus one politics option from:*

World Politics  
UK and European Comparative  
Governance and Politics  
Political Economy  
and Economic Policy

---

### Year 2

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Central Issues  
in Sociological Analysis  
The Making of the Modern World  
Social Change and  
Political Action  
Modern Political Theory

#### *Plus one sociology option (see page 15)*

#### *Plus one politics option such as:*

An(other) Japan: Politics  
and Popular Culture  
Modern Britain: Politics from  
1979-Today  
Africa in the Global  
Political Economy

---

### Year 3

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Theorising  
Contemporary Society  
Dissertation

#### *Plus one sociology option (see page 17)*

#### *Plus two politics options such as:*

Anarchism  
Beyond all Reason  
Rhetoric and Politics  
New Radical Political Economy  
Art War Terror  
An(other) China

# BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy & Economics

**3 years full-time**  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-politics-philosophy-economics](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-politics-philosophy-economics)

You'll gain an understanding of the world around you through Goldsmiths' unique approach to the combination of subject areas known as 'PPE'. Through a critical exploration of the core themes and ideas in politics, philosophy and economics, you'll be introduced to new approaches and viewpoints, which you'll use to challenge established political and economic policies, institutions and methods.

Our PPE programme takes you through contemporary, real-world problems so that you can hit the ground running when you start your career in public policy, NGOs, media, consulting or social innovation.

In your first year, you'll take five compulsory modules that cover the foundations of economics, philosophy, and contemporary issues in political economy. You'll then choose from The Politics of Other Cultures, World Politics, or UK and European Comparative Politics.

Your second year becomes more interdisciplinary and critical. In your economics modules you'll look at economic anthropology and explore the nature of money, property and markets. The philosophy module brings in elements of continental philosophy and critical theory. You'll also choose from a range of politics modules.

By your third year, you'll see the various connections between the separate fields of politics, philosophy and economics, and be able to combine them in critical and imaginative ways. You'll also have the chance to develop your original ideas into a dissertation of your choice.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Introductory Economics  
Introduction to Philosophy:  
Problems of Ethics  
Introduction to Political  
Philosophy  
Issues in Cultural and  
Political Economy

#### *Options:*

World Politics  
UK and European Comparative  
Governance and Politics  
The Politics of Other Cultures

---

### Year 2

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Knowledge and Subjectivity  
Aesthetics  
Politics, Economics and  
Social Change

#### *Plus one of:*

International Monetary  
Economics  
International Trade  
Political Economy

#### *Options:*

Two 15-credit modules chosen  
from relevant politics and  
international relations options  
Erasmus+ exchange

---

### Year 3

#### *Compulsory module:*

Global Cultural Politics  
Dissertation

#### *Options:*

Three to six relevant  
module choices  
Work placement module

## BA (Hons) Sociology & Chinese

4 years full-time (including 1 year in China)  
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-sociology-chinese

You'll explore your passion for people, society and transformation through this four-year programme that takes you to Beijing, China for one year.

You'll actively engage in a global world in which China is a major economic, political and social superpower. The content of the degree is a 50-50 split between intensive Mandarin Chinese training through Goldsmiths' Confucius Institute, and sociology modules from Goldsmiths' outstanding Department of Sociology.

In your first year you'll take two intensive Mandarin Chinese modules and two sociology modules.

In your second year you'll begin to read advanced Chinese texts and audio-visual news. You'll also take four sociology modules that will develop your 'sociological imagination'.

Your stay in Beijing takes place in your third year. You'll spend the year enhancing your Chinese language skills at Capital Normal University, where you'll meet like-minded students from all over the world and practise your spoken Mandarin with the friends you make in Beijing. You'll experience a different culture first-hand which might inspire the work you do in your final year.

In your fourth and final year of the programme, you'll continue with advanced-level Mandarin Chinese modules. You'll complete a dissertation on the sociology topic of your choice and choose from a range of sociology module options.

## BA (Hons) Sociology with Criminology

3 years full-time  
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-sociology-criminology

You'll consider the subject of criminology from a sociological context. By gaining the tools to understand and investigate crime and criminality from a critical perspective, you'll address the problem of crime in the context of modern forms of power.

Most importantly, you'll learn to challenge common sense assumptions about crime and the policing of individuals, populations and territories and develop the research skills required to succeed in policy and strategic roles when you graduate.

In your first year, you'll be introduced to sociological knowledge and training and begin to understand criminology in the context of the nation state, modern power, and structural inequality.

In your second year, you'll explore crime and criminology in a global context. You'll consider global inequality, migration, international relations and trade, and state crimes and human rights.

Your third year is a combination of the compulsory module Contemporary Social Theory and Society, and modules from a range of options including Race, Racism and Social Theory, Sociology of Visuality, and Citizenship and Human Rights. Your in-depth dissertation in a subject area of your choice will be a chance to pursue your area of interest and consolidate the knowledge you've gained throughout the programme.

### Year 1

#### Compulsory modules:

Researching Society and Culture I  
Modern Knowledge,  
Modern Power  
Culture and Society  
Policing the State

### Year 2

#### Compulsory modules:

Researching Society  
and Culture II  
Central Issues in  
Sociological Analysis  
Making of the Modern World  
Criminal Justice in Context  
Crimes Against Humanity

*Plus two sociology options  
(see page 17)*

### Year 3

#### Compulsory modules:

Contemporary Social  
Theory and Society  
Dissertation

*Plus four sociology or  
criminology options  
(see page 17)*

# BA (Hons) Criminology

3 years full-time  
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-criminology

We live in a complex, global, mobile and technologically sophisticated world, but also a world divided through inequality. What is the nature of crime now? How is it different now from in the 19th century? What peoples are seen and labelled as ‘criminal’? What roles do the social and cultural sciences play in our understanding and investigation of crime and criminality?

This programme will allow you to consider the subject of criminology from a sociological context. You will study:

The history and development of criminology as a discipline

How our knowledge of crime and criminality is refracted through culture and how the media represent crime, law and social order

Forms of government of crime and the policing of individuals, populations and territories

Technologies of forensic policing, surveillance and security

Crime as a global phenomenon and its policing in the context of global inequality, the movement of peoples, international trade, human rights and state violence

Practical cases and stories from people working in and with experience of the criminal justice system

Research methods for the empirical investigation of sociological and criminological topics

Our intention is that you consider the problem of crime from a critical perspective in the context of modern forms of power. You will develop a practical, but conceptually sophisticated, set of skills that will equip you for a range of careers in the sector and beyond.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Policing the State  
Criminological Imaginations I  
Modern Knowledge/  
Modern Power  
Researching Society  
and Culture I

### Year 2

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Criminological Imaginations II  
Making of the Modern World  
Researching Society  
and Culture II  
Criminal Justice in Context  
Crimes Against Humanity

*Plus one sociology or criminology option (see page 17)*

### Year 3

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Forensics and the Social  
Dissertation

*Plus four sociology or criminology option modules (see page 17)*

# BA (Hons) Religion

3 years full-time  
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-religion

This degree explores critically the relationships between religion and other aspects of society as diverse as culture, communication, politics, economy, nation, education, gender, law and ethnicities. It will give you the knowledge and expertise urgently needed in International Relations, local government, NGOs, charities, politics, media, corporate social responsibility, education and the arts.

Bringing together academic expertise from across the Departments of Sociology, Anthropology, and Politics and International Relations, this degree will immerse you in the interdisciplinary approaches to this influential subject.

Unlike a traditional theology or Religious Studies course focusing on the specifics of religious beliefs, this degree examines how religious and non-religious people negotiate the tensions and nuances of contemporary societies.

### Work placements

You will be encouraged to take a work placement module in the summer term with organisations such as: think tanks, pressure groups, media, NGOs. You may also choose to work with a particular ethnic group, undertake advocacy for refugee or disability rights or work in the field of visual cultures. Your third year dissertation will be empirically based and you will be encouraged to conduct research during your placement.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Modern Knowledge, Modern Power  
Culture and Society  
Believing and Belonging in London and the World  
The Politics of Other Cultures

### Year 2

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Anthropology of Religion  
Philosophy and Methodology of Social Science  
Sociology of Religion in the Modern World

The Making of the Modern World

*Plus two sociology options (see page 17)*

*Plus two politics options such as:*

Africa in the Global Political Economy

Life: A User's Manual

An(Other) Japan: Politics, Ideology and Culture

### Year 3

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Contemporary Social Theory  
Dissertation

*Plus four sociology or politics and international relations modules (see page 17)*



In your second year  
you'll choose from  
a range of exciting  
module options such as:

Art and Society

Culture, Representation  
and Difference

Leisure, Culture and Society

London

Marxism

Nationalism,  
Fundamentalism,  
Cosmopolitanism

Sex, Drugs and Technology

Social Change and  
Political Action

Stories and the Social World:  
Identity, Politics and Ethics

## London

This is a visually oriented urban sociology module in which you'll be taught close observation of urban space in a broader context and work through a combination of photography and writing. You'll be introduced to key themes in sociology - class, ethnicity, space, time, social inequalities, social change - through active engagement with the urban environment around New Cross specifically, and more generally in other areas of London. It combines classroom lectures with lectures, observation, workshops and other activities embedded in urban walks.

## Marxism

You'll look at the basic concepts developed from Marxist theory that are now ubiquitous elsewhere such as class, value, alienation, exploitation, and fetishism. Each week you'll focus on a basic concept; start with its original source, explain, contextualise, and trace its development and critique it as it progresses through social theory and sometimes into popular uses. You'll interrogate then develop each concept in relation to contemporary issues, and explore its significance and explanatory power as a critical sociological tool.

## Sex, Drugs and Technology

You'll look at contemporary approaches to the body and especially sexuality, beginning with an introduction to Foucaultian critiques and associated theories of performativity. The terms 'drugs' and 'technology' in the title give emphasis to the way in which the body will be posed as always already engaged with phenomena that is more commonly deemed external. This conceptual approach will introduce you to more contemporary debates, and particularly debates that offer a more applied approach to inquiries of the body in relation to health, medicine and everyday technologies, derived from astrology, psychoanalysis, and alternative therapies.

Your third year offers a wide range of options such as:

- Childhood Matters
- Global Development and Underdevelopment
- Privacy, Surveillance and Security
- Race, Racism and Social Theory
- Reflexive Practice Placement
- Representation and Difference
- Sociologies of Emerging Worlds
- Subjectivity, Health and Medicine Culture
- Theorising Contemporary Society
- Visual Explorations of the Social World

## Privacy, Surveillance and Security

Recent years have seen a huge growth in demands for certainty in the verification of identity and accountability of individual and organisational activity. There's also an increased demand for mechanisms that accumulate knowledge of what individuals and groups may do in the near future. You'll investigate contemporary issues in privacy, surveillance and security, such as the rise of CCTV and the visualisation of order, airports and spaces of disciplined consumption, the management of everyday life, and claims of the 'death of privacy'. You'll look at the tensions between privacy, surveillance and security issues.

## Race, Racism and Social Theory

You'll examine some of the conceptual and political problems that have clustered around the sociological analysis of 'race' and racism. It is comparative in focus and encompasses both historical and theoretical material. You'll be introduced to some of the main critical perspectives on race and racism and encouraged to relate them to a variety of examples including colonialism and the Atlantic slave trade, scientific racism, the Holocaust, feminism, multiculturalism and contemporary genomics.

## Sociologies of Emerging Worlds

You'll explore the emerging relationships between Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Africa - articulations that have been elaborated over a long history but which now take shape in new and powerful ways. There is a plurality of 'worlds' that enjoin different actors and spaces that cannot be easily defined according to geopolitical understandings - where information infrastructure, design, telecommunications, and travel combine to create new possibilities of transaction. You'll look at how these worlds affect our understandings of sociality, actors, and collective life, in general, and the shape and operations of emerging powers in particular.

Our graduates go into a range of fields including:

- Teaching
- Community work
- Research in local government and in the voluntary sector
- Radio
- TV
- Public relations
- Women's rights
- Developing their own companies and further study

Many Goldsmiths sociology graduates work in socially focused roles, helping and supporting people in some way. Or perhaps you'll choose to apply your knowledge and understanding of society in areas as diverse as advertising, journalism, banking or communications.

Recent employers include Mencap, Department of Work and Pensions, Mission Media, NHS, the Metropolitan Police, and Lloyds Bank. Graduate-level roles for our graduates have included youth worker, personnel manager, housing and welfare officer, social worker, public relations officer, researcher, local government graduate trainee, and events coordinator.

You'll gain transferable skills critical to your success across all sectors: critical and analytic thinking, awareness of social, political

and cultural processes, awareness of social and cultural difference, communication, and 'thinking outside the box.'



**Career journey**  
Arooj Khan (BA Sociology, 2011), Mentoring and Befriending Coordinator at Housing Justice, and a freelance researcher

"Being given the opportunity to study at Goldsmiths has given me a wealth of transferable skills that I utilise frequently in my work. Having the opportunity to talk to individuals from many



Goldsmiths has given me a wealth of transferable skills."

different walks of life gave me a lot of confidence and improved my communication skills. I was given the opportunity to attend career development workshops and, from that, have made vital networks in the field of housing, homelessness and research, that I use to this day."

Watch Goldsmiths graduates talk about how their experiences at university have given them a real advantage in their career: [vimeo.com/channels/career](https://vimeo.com/channels/career)

FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the  
department and degrees at:  
[gold.ac.uk/sociology](http://gold.ac.uk/sociology)

Watch our departmental film at:  
[vimeo.com/goldsmiths/  
sociology](http://vimeo.com/goldsmiths/sociology)

Get in touch with our  
Enquiries team:  
+44 (0)20 7078 5300  
[course-info@gold.ac.uk](mailto:course-info@gold.ac.uk)

---

The information in this booklet reflects the 2017-18 programme specifications and was correct at the time of print in June 2017. It is intended as a guide only and the information here is not intended to be binding. You can download the most up-to-date programme specifications from our degree pages by visiting [www.gold.ac.uk/course-finder](http://www.gold.ac.uk/course-finder)

Please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/disclaimer](http://www.gold.ac.uk/disclaimer) for information about our publications

© Goldsmiths, University of London 2017