

Short Form Unit Details

Unit Title	Issues in Contemporary Sociology
Level	1
Reference No. (showing level)	PSO-103-1
Credit Value	15 CAT points
Student Study Hours	Contact hours: 40 Student managed learning hours: 110
Pre-requisite learning	None
Co-requisites	None
Excluded combinations	None
Unit co-ordinator	Dr Shaminder Takhar
Faculty/Department	Arts and Human Sciences / Social and Policy Studies
Short Description	This unit explores issues in contemporary society related to the effects of globalization. It covers key themes in sociology and addresses issues such as migration and 'race', gender and class. The focus throughout the unit is how inequalities are reinforced through the changing nature of citizenship, sexualities, religion and mass media.
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a global introduction to sociology • To help students to deepen and widen their understanding of some of the main areas of study and key concepts within sociology • To study social relations, social processes and the issue of power based on class, gender and race • To analyse the formation and character of social trends by focusing on issues of inequality.
Learning Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and Understanding: On completion of the unit, students will have developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an understanding of the terms 'society' and 'individual'; • an understanding of societies as increasingly diverse and complex; • knowledge of different explanations and theories of society and social stratification. <p>Intellectual Skills: On completion of the unit, students will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed analytical and synthetic skills; • acquired the ability to critically comment on developments such as globalization; • acquired the ability to investigate a range of inequalities related to class, gender, sexuality, religion and race. <p>Practical Skills: On completion of the unit students will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shown the ability to present, in written and oral form, a sustained, analytical and coherent examination of contemporary sociological issues using appropriate vocabulary, evidence, footnotes and bibliography; • shown the ability to produce a presentation with the use of appropriate technical skills e.g. use of Power Point; • shown the ability to communicate and sustain an informed argument and analysis on sociological issues, and working in

	<p>small groups.</p> <p>Transferable Skills:</p> <p>At the end of this unit students should have acquired a range of skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oral communication and written skills; • critical appraisal of source material (written and visual); • extracting and analysing information; • analytical skills in devising arguments, use of relevant evidence and forming judgements; • collaborative work in groups; • time management.
Employability	<p>This unit develops skills that you should find very useful in your future employment. In particular it will demonstrate your ability to pursue independent initiatives, to meet deadlines, to search for academic materials, to write in an academic style and to prepare a presentation.</p>
Teaching and learning pattern	<p>Lectures and interactive seminars, group work.</p>
Indicative content	<p>The unit consists of four parts:</p> <p><u>Part One</u>: Globalization; the 'Global Village'; Stratification, Inequality and Poverty; The Global Power of the Media.</p> <p><u>Part Two</u>: Stratification – Class in the UK.</p> <p><u>Part Three</u>: The Significance of 'Race', Gender and Sexuality.</p> <p><u>Part Four</u>: Religion (Islamophobia), National Boundaries and Citizenship. Sessions 10 and 11 are devoted to the group presentation.</p>
Assessment Elements & weightings	<p>Assessment 1: Group Presentation carrying 30 <i>per cent</i> of the total marks available.</p> <p>Assessment 2: Essay (1500 words) carrying 70 <i>per cent</i> of the total marks available.</p>
Indicative Sources (<i>Reading lists</i>)	<p>Abercrombie, N. (2004) <u>Sociology</u>, Polity Press.</p> <p>Ahmed, A.S. (2003) <u>Islam Under Siege</u>, Polity Press.</p> <p>Ballard, C; Gubbay, J; (1997) <u>The Student's Companion to Sociology</u>, Middleton, C. Oxford: Blackwell.</p> <p>Bilton, T. et al. (eds.) (2002) <u>Introductory Sociology</u>, 4th edition, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, Ch.3.</p> <p>Bruce, S. (2003) <u>Politics and Religion</u>, Polity Press.</p> <p>Brice, S. (2000) <u>Fundamentalism</u>, Polity Press.</p> <p>Callinicos, A. (2003) <u>An Anti-Capitalist Manifesto</u>, Polity Press.</p> <p>Cohen, C. & Kennedy, P. (2000) <u>Global Sociology</u>, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.</p>