

Module Details	
Module Title	Key Themes and Thinkers in Sociology
Module Code	SAC4020-B
Academic Year	2023/4
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 4

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	12
Seminars	12
Directed Study	176

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims
<p>This module aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Locate the disciplinary origins of Sociology. 2. Discuss the impact of Enlightenment upon the discipline of Sociology. 3. Provide an overview of key sociological theories, concepts and interpretative lenses. 4. Explain social organization and reveal relationships of structure/agency. 5. Demonstrate the uses of evidence in sociological inquiry. 6. Promote a reflexive approach to understanding society through lived experience. 7. Discuss the continuing influence, relevance and explanatory potential of classical sociology. 8. Consider what it means to be a 'classic' in Sociology. 9. Develop understanding of alternative sociological paradigms through feminist and postcolonial theory. <p>Theories will be grounded and contextualised through thematic exploration of social domains, concepts, transformations, and identities. These may include but are not limited to 'race', ethnicity and religion, gender and sexuality, globalisation and modernity, the state and political institutions, capitalism and the economy, class, disability and identity.</p>

Outline Syllabus

This module will provide theoretical grounding to your sociological thinking. It will outline the development of sociological thought in the context of 19th and 20th century modernisation and will discuss the contribution and continuing relevance of major theorists in Sociology such as Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and Georg Simmel. Early feminist and postcolonial theoretical developments will also be explored through the works of Charlotte Perkins Gilman and W.E.B Du Bois.

Progressively in a series of lectures and seminars you will build knowledge in:

- Social thought in modern contexts
- Social change and transitions: urbanisation and industrialisation
- Macro sociology: Durkheim and Marx
- Micro sociology: Weber and Simmel
- Critical social thought: Feminism and postcolonialism
- Contemporary understandings of sociological 'classics'
- Early Sociology and its futures
- Understanding the classics through thematic exploration and analysis

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
LO1	Explain the contextual development of sociological thought and theory.
LO2	Recognise the distinctions between positivist and interpretivist Sociology.
LO3	Describe key concepts and principles associated with classical sociological theories and discuss their relevance to contemporary social life.
LO4	Use classical social theory to explain contemporary social phenomena.
LO5	Recall key theoretical paradigms and engage with those that represent alternative and/or radical ideas, such as feminism and postcolonialism.
LO6	Locate social phenomena and experiences that challenge the sociological canon.
LO7	Interpret social domains, identities and transformations using classical social theory.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Teaching on basic theoretical principles and concepts takes an engaging approach where learning is facilitated through the study of extracts drawn from key texts written by the sociological classics. There will also be reflection upon contemporary reviews in lectures and seminar discussions. Student-led discussion is paramount to this process to promote links between classical social theory and lived experience through the conceptualization of mundane and ordinary observations of everyday life, as well as the more in-depth consideration of social domains, identities and transformations. In this way, you will learn to extend social theory and use it to understand contemporary social life (LOs 1-7)

Weekly synchronous and asynchronous exercises with thematic content will facilitate the application of social theory to social life and experience (LOs 2, 6, 7). Themes will be further analysed in written coursework through the application of sociological knowledge and development of academic arguments that evidence the usefulness and limitations of classical concepts and theories in explaining contemporary social life.

A reflective approach to teaching and learning social theory will enable you to evaluate and critique your own theoretical insights key principles and concepts and assess their relationship to power dynamics. This makes for a much more diverse and inclusive understanding of social theory, useful and relevant to everyday life.

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	2000 words essay: Applications of classical sociological theory to contemporary social life	100%
Formative	Classroom test	Weekly synchronous and asynchronous exercises with thematic content	N/A

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

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