

# SOCIOLOGY

## **The Course**

Sociology is the study of society, of individuals and groups within society and whether we shape society, or society shapes us. Sociology will help you to gain a greater understanding of why people behave in the way that they do. Did my family shape me and what techniques did they use? Why do some people become criminals? Why do some people achieve better academic qualifications? Why does inequality exist; why are some people racist, sexist, discriminatory? Why do or don't I hold the same views?

The course will introduce you to six different sociological perspectives: Functionalist, New Right, Marxist, Feminisms, Post Modernism, Interactionism. You will be taught to evaluate, to make comparisons, judgements about the value, effectiveness and usefulness of each. You will learn to apply concepts from each to our contemporary society and will learn to look at our society from a range of viewpoints.

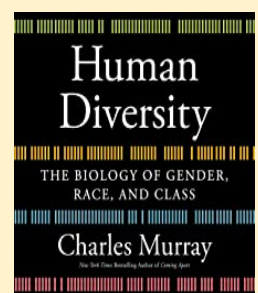
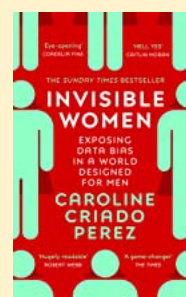
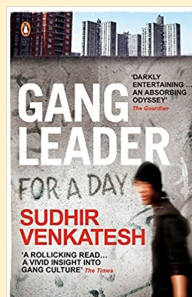
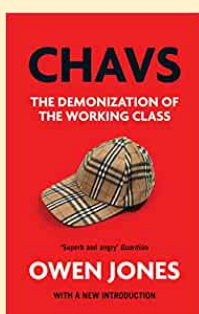
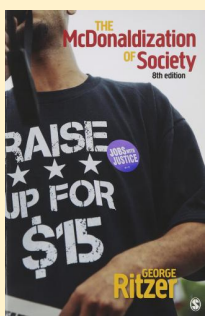
If you would like a career about or involving people then Sociology may be for you!

## **Tasks:**

Before you start Sociology it is worth doing a little reading around the subject. When you read, consider can the article/ book/ perspective explain: contemporary society, society in the past, all behaviour within society, only the behaviour of a certain group? Is the article biased, value-free, objective?

There are many television programmes and films that provide a glimpse into people and society and how culture changes over time and across societies. A tip for budding sociologists is to watch with a critical eye and consider what causes the people to behave in the way that they do and can that be used to explain, cause and even change how people behave?

## **Ideas for Pre-Course Reading**



## **Ideas for Pre-Course Watching**

Secret Life of Five-Year Olds

Growing up Poor: Britain's Breadline Kids

The Documentary: An Eton Experience

Living with The Amish

National Geographic: Lost and Found

The Hate You Give

The Imitation Game

Maze Runner

I, Daniel Blake

Room

The Hunger Games

**Useful Websites:** [http://sociology.org.uk/I\\_intro.htm](http://sociology.org.uk/I_intro.htm)

**Discover Sociology:** <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/what-is-sociology/discover-sociology/>