BIC3036-B module descriptor	
Module Title	Introduction to the Social Sciences and Exploring Sociology
Credit Level	20 credits (RQF Level 3)
Session	2026/7 academic year
BDA occurrence	Academic Year available at University of Bradford
BDA occurrence	Non Standard Year available at University of Bradford
BDB occurrence	Non Standard Year available at University of Bradford

Transparency notice

This specification for module code BIC3036-B has been generated automatically in advance of the academic year 2026/7. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes permitted by our Student Contract Terms and Conditions could be made in the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching; where changes impact the terms and conditions of an applicant's or student's offer, these are communicated to them as soon as possible.

BIC3036-B module aims

This module introduces you to the key figures, theories and subjects associated with Sociology, Psychology and Media and Cultural Studies in the context of the study of contemporary human society. Taking the family unit as a site of sociological analysis, you will explore the issues of crime and deviance and their portrayal in the media to gain insights into social sciences practice. Although there is a consideration of theoretical frameworks, the focus is on debate and analysis of urgent social issues.

BIC3036-B module learning outcomes

No.	Students completing the module will be able to:
01	Outline the development of the social sciences and their importance for understanding contemporary culture.
02	Compare and contrast two competing theories within a branch of the social sciences.
03	Describe the central role of the family from a sociological perspective.
04	Explain the major theories of deviance and crime and show how deviance is portrayed by the media.

BIC3036-B module outline syllabus

What are the Social Sciences:

Exploring the history, different disciplines, branches, and the main features that link them together as overlapping subjects within a wider whole. Anthropology, Economics, Media Studies, Political Science and Psychology and key figures associated with them and their theories.

Describe the development of core social sciences of Sociology, focusing on key figures, theories and debates.

A brief description of the development of core social sciences of Media and Cultural Studies focussing on key figures, theories and debates.

The family
Is it universal? The critical views of the family - Marxist and Feminist, family diversity; conjugal roles, marriage and marriage breakdown; family and social policy.

Deviance within society
non-sociological explanations; Marxist, neo-Marxism and interactionist interpretations; the crime rate; gender and ethnicity and crime; the impact of crime on society.

Consideration of social and cultural matters relating to protected characteristics and the importance of diversity and inclusion.

Consideration of the role of the media in the portrayal and influence of social and cultural understanding of deviance.

For more information, visit the VLE (**Canvas**) page, go to our **Reading Lists webpage for this module** or search **https://bradford.rl.talis.com** for this module.

BIC3036-B module notional learning hours

- 110 hours Directed Study
- 90 hours Lectures

The overall expected hours may include contact time, scheduled learning activity, directed and independent study and any minimum expectations for placement learning. Most learning at the University of Bradford has some online content and sessions which are delivered fully by virtual means are labelled as "online".

BIC3036-B module learning, teaching and assessment

Groups are small and classes are student-centred, task-based and interactive.

The classroom approach is explicitly designed to help international students acquire new knowledge and skills, to build their confidence and enable them to become more independent learners. By doing this consistently and across all modules, the programme provides them with a strong foundation for further study in their chosen subject area.

The approach is inclusive and recognises that students come from different backgrounds with a range of previous learning experiences and associated expectations, beliefs and behaviours. Teaching and learning methods are clearly explained so students understand why (where appropriate) they need to engage in new ways of learning and why those they have used or relied on up to this point may be less suited to supporting their ongoing development and their chances of success in UK Higher Education.

Formative work is an integral part of the approach. In class, students are set tasks that require them to apply their knowledge and skills, to think critically and to solve problems. The level of challenge is gradually increased as the students grow in confidence and Tutors help them to see that experimentation, trial and error are central to the learning process, providing constructive feedback on both what has been achieved and how.

Students are also expected to engage in independent study, to reflect on their own performance and to discuss this with their module tutor or personal academic tutor, who will provide support and advice and, when necessary, draw the attention of the Academic Management Team to a struggling student using the 'Students of concern' process.

Summative assessment activities are deigned to test relevant knowledge and understanding, and tasks are chosen to reflect what may be required when students progress on to their chosen undergraduate degree.

BIC3036-B mode of assessment

Type	Mode	Assessment description	Weight
Summative	Presentation	Individual presentation focused on LO1 and LO2 (8-10 minutes)	50%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Essay covering LO3 and LO4. (1000 words)	50%

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