

Module Details	
Module Title	Key Thinkers in Sociology
Module Code	SAC4018-B
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 4

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Tutorials	12
Lectures	12
Directed Study	176

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

Module Aims
<p>This module will provide theoretical grounding to your sociological thinking. It will outline the development of early sociological thought in the context of 19th and 20th century modernisation, and 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, Oliver Cox, and W.E.B Du Bois. More specifically the module aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote in-depth understanding of the contexts in which social thought emerged and developed.</li> <li>- Situate sociological thought in 19th and 20th century social organisation.</li> <li>- Introduce key ideas of central founding figures in sociological theory.</li> <li>- Critically reflect upon the continuing influence, relevance and explanatory potential of classical sociology</li> <li>- Consider what it means to be a 'classic' in Sociology.</li> <li>- Develop understanding of alternative sociological paradigms through feminist and postcolonial theory.</li> </ul>

## Outline Syllabus

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

## Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Gain an understanding of the context in which sociological thought emerged and developed.
02	Understand the difference between positivist and interpretivist Sociology.
03	Evaluate underlying concepts and principles associated with classical and modern sociological theories and apply these in relevant contexts.
04	Develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in line with basic theories and concepts of sociology.
05	Draw critical appraisals of sociological theory by exploring alternative and radical early theoretical paradigms.
06	Draw links between classical and contemporary social thought and reflect upon the usefulness of sociological forebears

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Key theoretical ideas will be introduced in a series of lectures intended to progressively advance your understanding of sociological thought as it emerged in the writings of what we have come to call modern 'classics'. Links to contemporary social thought will be drawn and the continuing relevance of classical ideas will be discussed within the context of unfolding teaching materials. Lectures will utilise interactive methods that involve blended learning and online techniques to stimulate constructive thought and reflection.

Seminars will allow acquired knowledge to consolidate. Discussions based upon independent study of classical works will clarify and deepen your understanding, while reflection upon their usefulness and practical application will help you to articulate the relevance of key sociological ideas in contemporary issues and debates.

The written essay will help you to deepen your research and understanding of founding sociological ideas, while the group project will help you to communicate its relevance in the present world.

## Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Essay (2000 words)	70%
Summative	Presentation	Group Presentation (15 Minutes)	30%

## 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.*

---

© University of Bradford 2021

<https://bradford.ac.uk>