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PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA Honours Sociology and Criminology
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of Higher Education
	Certificate of Higher Education
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time, four years part time day. September start.
[QAA subject benchmarking group](s):	Sociology and Criminology
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	Not applicable
Date of course validation/review:	February 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	April 2016
Valid for cohorts :	Levels 4, 5 and 6
Course Leader	Dr Hilde Stephansen
UCAS code and URL:	LM39
	westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate

What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?
There are standard minimum entry requirements for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course
The aims of the BA (Hons) Sociology and Criminology at Westminster has been designed to produce graduates who are inspiring, active and informed global citizens who are interested and engaged with social issues in their communities and beyond. The course aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of Criminology and Sociology as interdisciplinary subject areas. It aims to develop the skills necessary for intellectual enquiry by encouraging students to question and think critically about the ways in which societies operate.

Sociology and Criminology are complementary disciplines that make perfect partners in a degree programme. With current fears and anxieties about 'Broken Britain' and growing concerns relating to national and global security, the study of these two disciplines has never been more important. Combining sociology and criminology enables students to study the ways in which power relations operate in society. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the complex social, political and ideological dimensions of legal institutions and the relationships between law, justice and society. In both sociology and criminology we aim to foreground issues of equality, social justice and human rights, in order to help develop our students as effective, active and critical citizens. The lives and interests of our students are reflected both in module content relating to diversity and in our approach to learning and teaching.

The combined degree programme of Sociology and Criminology at Westminster offers a unique curriculum which cannot be studied at any other UK university. A distinctive features of the combined degree are our use of London as a learning and teaching resource with a number of modules offering field trips around London. There is also an opportunity for students to study abroad for a semester. The programme is led by specialists in their fields, whose interests include human rights, migration, gender, ethnicity, social activism, media, psychology, theory and methodology.

More specifically the course aims to do the following:

- enable students to fulfil their potential;
- develop students' ability to identify sociological and criminological problems, formulate questions and investigate them;
- provide a wide variety of modules in sociology and criminology which will engage, stimulate, challenge and enthuse students, to develop their qualities of perception and judgement;
- promote academic and personal progression through a programme which offers increasing specialisation and demands higher-order work at upper levels, culminating in the final demonstration of independent learning in a self-managed dissertation;
- encourage students to make the best use of the unparalleled opportunities for

study and research in London
- enable students to analyse, assess and communicate empirical information about inequalities, social injustice and human rights, and representations of complex issues such as immigration;
- enable students to identify and deploy a range of research strategies, including qualitative and quantitative methods and the use of published data sources, and to select and apply appropriate strategies for specific research problems.

The programme also provides opportunities to undertake work placements, providing essential practical experience and facilitating graduate career progression.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU);
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA);
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP);
- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (KTS).

Level 4 learning outcomes

Upon completion of level 4 you will be able to:

L4.1 Describe a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches within sociology and criminology.

L4.2 Recognise patterns of social diversity and inequality, with particular relevance to relationships between law, social justice and society

L4.3 Recognise the nature of social relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions.

L4.4 Identify informed sociological and criminological explanations and questions.

L4.5 Summarise the findings of empirical sociological and criminological research including identification of the methodological framework used and the ethical dimensions of social research.

L4.6 Apply basic research tools in a preliminary way.

L4.7 Recognise ways in which sociology and criminology can be distinguished from other forms of understanding and explanation.

L4.8 Retrieve information, cite evidence/sources and structure an argument.

L4.9 Reflect on their own work and participate in group work and discussion.

Level 5 learning outcomes
Upon completion of level 5 you will be able to:

L5.1 Describe, examine and compare a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches in sociology and criminology and evaluate their application.

L5.2 Demonstrate knowledge of competing epistemological foundations of research in sociology and criminology.

L5.3 Formulate practical and viable research questions which can be used to explore their final year dissertation topic.

L5.4 Critically assess ethical issues, diverse research strategies and methodological frameworks in gaining knowledge in the disciplines of sociology and/or criminology.

L5.5 Justify the selection and use of appropriate research tools and evaluate them..

L5.6 Analyse ways in which sociology and criminology offer particular forms of understanding and identify the value of the disciplines' work to social, public and policy issues.

L5.7 Draw on and cite evidence from a range of sources and demonstrate an ability to synthesise and evaluate competing explanations in an argument.

L5.8 Produce clear, fluent and coherently structured written work.

L5.9 Work collaboratively, reflectively, and participate in group discussion.

Level 6 learning outcomes
Upon completion of level 6 you will be able to:

L6.1 Describe, examine and compare a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches in sociology and/or criminology.

L6.2 Formulate and investigate questions across a range of specialist areas in either of the two disciplines.

L6.3 Analyse and evaluate the changing nature of social relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions.

L6.4 Investigate and evaluate explanations located in sociology and/or criminology to generate appropriate informed questions.

L6.5 Discuss sociological topics with appreciation of theory, methodology, evidence and relevance to current debates and present the conclusions in a variety of appropriate formats.

L6.6 Select, apply and evaluate appropriate research tools to produce a piece of research in sociology and/or criminology which meets ethical standards.

L6.7 Illustrate the relationship between different kinds of sociological argument and evidence and identify and comment on the value of sociological work with regard to social, public and policy issues.

L6.8 Draw on and cite evidence from a wide range of academic sources and demonstrate an ability to synthesise and evaluate competing explanations to make coherent arguments and draw reasoned conclusions.

L6.9 Write or orally present arguments with clarity, fluency and coherence to a professional standard.

How will you learn?

At the heart of the degree is its learning and teaching strategy which encompasses a wide variety of teaching methods designed to accommodate the diverse learning needs and experiences of our students. Students are supported and encouraged to develop into autonomous, self-directed learners through experiential, reflective and research-based learning. During the course your learning will be facilitated through a combination of:

- **Lectures:** Hour-long lectures are used to provide a core of knowledge as a basis for further guided independent study. In addition to providing a common foundation of learning they also develop the skills of listening, note-taking and reflection. We encourage deep learning in lectures through interactive engagements and the use of a variety of audio-visual and presentational methods.

- **Seminars:** These provide opportunities for student-centred and active learning and are used to examine and discuss material covered in lectures, to broaden debates around issues raised in lectures or set readings, and to provide support and guidance on the preparation of coursework. Individual or group exercises are a key element of seminars, providing an opportunity for students to rehearse and revise ideas in interaction with others, to benefit from the diversity of others' experience and to develop skills in oral presentation and communication. Seminars also provide opportunities for early formative assessment and feedback, a vital component of the learning experience and a means for developing sociological skills and analysis.

- **Workshops and Practical Classes:** Different kinds of workshops and practical classes are used on some modules and encompass a varied range of activities designed to allow students to practice new ways of thinking, work with new techniques of data collection or analysis, or to engage in close analysis of texts or case studies. Some workshops will be taught in computer laboratories where specialist methods software packages are available, to provide the opportunity for practical, hands-on learning. Other workshops may take place online, in the library or off-campus and/or involve film screenings, guest speakers, presentation of student work-in-progress, or the execution of set tasks prepared by students in advance.

- **Field Trips:** London is used as a rich resource for students to engage with and investigate through fieldwork. A significant number of modules make use of the university's central location to facilitate 'off-site' learning. These field trips support learning or are part of assessments. Previous field trips have included: visits to the High Court of Justice and the BBC, walking tours of Black London, leisure sites in Clerkenwell, LGBT History in Soho and street art in the Brick Lane area; exhibition visits to the Museum of London, the Museum of London at Docklands and the Victoria & Albert museum; visits to archives at the Stuart Hall library, the Women's Library and the Welcome Collection. Other trips abroad have included Berlin and Paris.

- **Individual Tutorials**: Individual tutorials are used to support group sessions on some modules, especially as students progress through the course and are expected to undertake more independent work such as small scale research and selecting topics/ texts/images for analysis. Individual tutorials are used most heavily in the final year honours dissertation, where students are assigned a supervisor who they meet at regular intervals to discuss their dissertation research.

In addition to the above modes of learning and teaching, the course provision also includes resources and guidance for independent learning which is supported through: advice and support from research-active teaching staff; access to a range of paper and electronic resources (books, journals and other sources); access to IT resources including hardware, software and the necessary technical support. The course also makes extensive use of:

- **Virtual Learning Environment:** The virtual learning environment, Blackboard, is used as a central communication point between staff and students and is used for

the following purposes:
- ○ To supply readings, lecture notes, module documents, assessment guidance and seminar materials, thus increasing students' access to key resources;
- ○ To link to/embed audio, visual and web content, including module-specific podcasts, lecture recordings, video content and task information;
- ○ To provide reading lists with hyperlinks and downloadable module handbooks;
- ○ To allow online submission of assessments via Turnitin, and online provision of feedback and marks;
- ○ Discussion boards, Wikis and blogs for use in online workshops and to enable students to work together in preparation for classes and assessments;
- ○ To provide links to other sources of study skills and learning support within the university;
- ○ To keep students up to date with module events or changes via announcements.

- **Guides to Study:** In their first year, every student is issued with a copy of the 'Guide to Writing and Referencing'', also known as 'the 'red book'. It provides a clear guide to academic referencing and bibliography formatting, as well as guidance on structuring essays, interpreting assessment guidelines and how to avoid common usage and grammatical errors. The 'red book' has been identified as an example of good practice by the department and it has been adapted for use in a number of other HE institutions. For every module students take there is a comprehensive module handbook which contains details of lecture, seminar and workshop schedules, module learning outcomes, assessment instructions and criteria and full reading lists.

How will you be assessed?

The course offers a variety of assessment to students which aim to stimulate, motivate and challenge. Formative, summative and synoptic assessments are carried out across the course. Assessment offers a way of measuring whether the learning outcomes at module and course level have been achieved and to what standard. At each level and within each module, assessments have been designed which assess not only knowledge, but skills. The range of assessment methods used on the course includes:

- Essays;
- Autobiographical and self-reflective analyses;
- Critical literature reviews and commentaries;
- Policy reports, manifestos and campaign design;
- Case studies;
- Oral presentations (group and individual);
- Analytical exercises including deconstruction of images and discourses;
- Practical research tasks (designing materials, collecting data and analysis);
- Computer-based assessments;
- Portfolios;
- Learning plans, logs, diaries and reflections;
- In-class tests;
- Exams (unseen, take-home and open-book);
- Dissertation.

Synoptic Assessment

Synoptic assessment is included on the course at each level and is assessment which links more than one module and is designed to meet the course learning outcomes. In synoptic assessments students draw on knowledge and skills developed in the subject as a whole and as such demonstrate the links and deeper connections between different approaches and topics within Sociology and Criminology.

Formative Assessment and Feedback
Formative assessments are an important part of the assessment strategy. Students are given opportunities to undertake formative assessment on all modules. Formative assessment takes place in seminars and workshops, and through assessed work that rehearses skills required at a more advanced level in subsequent assessments or modules.

Central to the effectiveness of formative assessment is the provision of feedback to students. Formative feedback that 'feeds forwards' enables students to measure their progress, reflect upon the effectiveness of their learning and to make appropriate improvements in their work. This feedback may be given via comments on planned or draft work, in response to workshop presentations/tasks, via peer-assessment and class discussions or online via discussion boards and blogs. More formal, written feedback is provided to students on summative assessments (those which contribute to the mark on a module). Such feedback is designed to be constructive, forward-looking and formative in character. We expect students to reflect on their feedback and integrate it into future work on the course.

Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinkers;

- Literate and effective communicator;
- Entrepreneurial;
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities;
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware.

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

The BA Honours Sociology and Criminology aims to create graduates who have acquired core competencies through practice-based learning. Embedded in the content and assessment of our combined degree are the opportunities to acquire attributes much sought after by employers, namely:

- Thinking creatively or 'outside the box' in solving problems and displaying initiative and willingness to tackle a problem or issue;
- The ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team with minimal supervision;
- Numeracy and ICT skills including information retrieval and data management;
- Research, evaluation and analytical skills;
- Verbal and written communication skills;
- The ability to present an evidence-based argument;
- Awareness of issues around diversity and difference;
- Time management.

A degree combining Sociology and Criminology prepares students for a diverse range of professional careers because it develops high level critical analytical and evaluative competencies, self and social awareness. Many of our students enter what might be described as people-related professions such as human resources, marketing, teaching or social work, or they join private companies, national or local government or voluntary organisations. Their interest may have been sparked by specific modules in areas such as youth policy, media and crime or Migration and Identity. A significant number of students are inspired to continue to further study for Master's degrees and PhDs at prestigious institutions and subsequently make the transition to academic jobs in teaching and/or research at this or other universities.

Students on the course are encouraged from the first year onwards to develop career management skills and to identify skills gaps and remedy them through further training provided by the university e.g. in IT, modern languages and academic literacy or through voluntary or paid work. At Level 5 or Level 6 students have the opportunity to take a work experience module which requires them to research and negotiate a suitable work placement and gain valuable experience in applying their knowledge and skills in a workplace setting. For many students the work experience placement has been crucial in making connections in a field of work and has led to enhanced employment opportunities after graduation.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources. Please note that not all option modules run every year.

Credit Level 4				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
4CRIM007W	Researching Crime and Society	Core	20	10
4SOCL001W	Thinking Sociologically	Core	20	10
4SOCL002W	Identity and Society	Core	20	10
4CRIM001W	The Criminological Imagination	Core	40	20
4SOCL006W	Introduction to Media and Cultural Studies	Option	20	10
4SOCL003W	London Explored	Option	20	10
4CRIM002W	Justice and Human Rights	Option	20	10
4CRIM003W	Controversies in Criminal Justice	Option	20	10
4CRIM004W	Psychology and Crime	Option	20	10
4CRIM005W	Crime and the London Underworld	Option	20	10
4SOCL004W	Understanding Race	Option	20	10
4SOCL007W	Introducing Gender	Option	20	10
	Polylang or Faculty Elective	Option	20	10
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				

Credit Level 5				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
5CRIM008W	Research Methods in Sociology and Criminology	Core	20	10
5SOCL001W	Modern Social Theory	Core	20	10
5CRIM001W	Radical Criminology	Core	20	10
5SOCL008W	Youth, Culture and Identity	Option	20	10
5CRIM002W	Globalisation, Crime and Control	Option	20	10
5SOCL002W	Education Now	Option	20	10

5SOCL009W	Globalisation and the Media	Option	20	10
5SOCL003W	Work Experience	Option	20	10
5SOCL004W	The Sociology of Religion	Option	20	10
5SOCL005W	Sexualities	Option	20	10
5SOCL006W	Emotional Life	Option	20	10
5CRIM005W	Youth, Crime and Justice	Option	20	10
5CRIM003W	Race, Crime and Justice	Option	20	10
5CRIM004W	Gender, Crime and Justice	Option	20	10
5CRIM006W	Forensic Criminal Psychology	Option	20	10
	Polylang, Faculty Elective or Westminster Elective	Option	20	10
Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available				

Credit Level 6				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
6CRIM002W	Dissertation in Sociology and Criminology	Core	40	20
6SOCL002W	Contemporary Social Theory	Option	20	10
6CRIM011W	Criminological Research in Action	Option	20	10
6SOCL007W	Making the News	Option	20	10
6SOCL010W	Contemporary Gender Studies: Feminist Theory and Beyond	Option	20	10
6SOCL009W	Consuming Race	Option	20	10
6SOCL008W	Crossing Borders and Boundaries: Migration, Identity and Culture	Option	20	10
6SOCL004W	Making Bodies: Gender, Culture, Science	Option	20	10
6SOCL011W	Gender, Education and Identity	Option	20	10
6SOCL012W	Food, Taste and Consumption	Option	20	10
6SOCL005W	Politics, Protest and the Public Sphere	Option	20	10
6SOCL006W	Perils and Pleasures: A London Sociology of Leisure	Option	20	10
6SOCL003W	Families, Intimacies and Personal Life	Option	20	10
6CRIM003W	Punishment and Modern Society	Option	20	10
6CRIM004W	Human Rights and Global Injustice	Option	20	10

6CRIM005W	Psychology Crime and the Popular Imagination	Option	20	10
6CRIM006W	Media and Crime	Option	20	10
6CRIM007W	Issues in State Crime	Option	20	10
6CRIM008W	Victims of Crime	Option	20	10
6CRIM009W	Immigration, Crime and Control	Option	20	10
6CRIM010W	Work Experience in Criminology and Criminal Justice	Option	20	10
	Polylang	Option	20	10
Award BA available **Award BA Honours available**.				

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

The BA Honours Sociology and Criminology and all the modules that make up the degree are managed by the teaching team and co-ordinated by the Sociology and Criminology course leader. Students will meet the course leader during Orientation week and thereafter they will be available either by email, during weekly office hours, or by appointment. The degree is part of a suite of BA Honours degrees in the School of Social Sciences, for which the Head of School is ultimately responsible. Regular course team meetings are held and attended by full-time, fractional and part-time Visiting Lecturer staff to discuss course content, learning and teaching, academic and social activities and deal with any concerns.

Individual modules have a module leader who is responsible for the smooth running of that module. Module leaders are available in term-time in their office hours or by appointment. All staff are committed to a collaborative and reflexive engagement in learning and teaching as an academic and social community, where mutual respect and peer support are core values. To this end we ask all students to observe the policy for respect in the learning environment whereby mutual responsibilities for engagement in the course are clearly set out for staff and students alike.

Each student is assigned a personal academic tutor to whom they may turn for advice on academic or pastoral matters. At Level Four and Five (years one and two) students will be assigned a personal tutor from the Sociology or Criminology team. At Level Six (year three) students' dissertation supervisors will also act as their personal tutor. During March of the first and second year students will have the opportunity to choose their option modules for the subsequent year following consultation with academic staff.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at westminster.ac.uk/blackboard.

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students[1] can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources

(databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Study Community

Outside of formal learning and modules the Sociology and Criminology course has a lively community of staff, students and alumni that new students are encouraged to get involved in, and which offers alternative sources of support and engagement on the course.

- Westminster Sociology, the name of our Facebook page and Twitter feed, is an excellent and easy way to stay connected to Sociology. We use it to highlight happenings in the department, staff and student news, as well as external academic and cultural events around London.
- The Westminster Sociology wordpress blog contains longer pieces by or about staff and issues relating to Sociology.
- Our Open Research Series public events take place two or three times a semester and are a chance for students to hear researchers talk about their work in different areas of Sociology and Criminology. Events are very informal and a great opportunity to discuss ideas outside the classroom!
- The Students' Union Sociology and Criminology societies have been run in previous years by and for students, to do the things that students want to do – trips, film screenings, debates, campaigns, parties.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at westminster.ac.uk/student-advice. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at westminster.ac.uk/students-union.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2015**.** The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from student engagement activities, including School Staff Student Exchange meetings, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each College puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

Student Forum

There is a Sociology Student Forum which meets twice a year and is open to everyone on the course. Students can to raise any issues about the course and how things might be improved or new ideas and these are discussed, actions proposed and then fed back to everyone via email. Some of the issues we have addressed include co-ordinating coursework deadlines, a common format for presenting modules on Blackboard and the 'Respect' policy.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.

- There are also School Staff Student Exchange meetings that enable wider discussions across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.

- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.

- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.