

Module Code	ECSO4001
Title	Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociological Theory
Date	27/03/2019
Level	4
Credits	20
Pre-Requisites	None

AIM(S)

- To provide an introduction to the main sociological perspectives and to the methods used by social scientists to investigate contemporary society.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- describe the key features of significant sociological perspectives and how they relate to the study of contemporary society;
- understand the way in which society is structured and the nature of social justice and inclusion;
- understand the nature of sociological enquiry including the concepts of qualitative and quantitative research and primary and secondary evidence.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

- An introduction to the main perspectives from which society is studied; e.g. Marxism, functionalism, neo-liberalism, feminism, capitalism, postmodernism and ecology/sustainable development.
- An introduction to the ways in which society is divided along lines of gender, class, race, age etc.
- An exploration of the ways in which societal divisions rely on an imbalance of power and consequently lead to inequality.
- An introduction to the nature of qualitative and quantitative research methods and how these relate to the study of contemporary society.
- An introduction to the concept of primary and secondary evidence in social studies.

Study Time Allocation

The study time for the module is divided as follows:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	30	15%
Independent learning	170	85%
Placement learning	0	0%
TOTAL	200	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Written Assignment	2100 words	70%

Assessment Component 2

☐ Written exam ☐ Coursework ☒ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Seminar Presentation	8 minutes	30%

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	
Coursework	70%
Practical	30%
TOTAL	100%

READING LIST

Module Code	EC SO4001	
Module Title	Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociological Theory	
Classification	Reading List entry	Electronic*
Essential	Haralambos, M. & Holborn, M. (2018) <i>Sociology: Themes and Perspectives</i> . Hammersmith, London: Harper Collins Publishers Limited.	☐
Essential	Dillon, M (2019) <i>Introduction to Sociological Theory: Theorists, Concepts and their Applicability to the Twenty-first Century</i> , Oxford: Willey-Blackwell.	☐
Essential	Giddens, Sutton, & Sutton, Philip W. (2017). <i>Sociology</i> (7th ed. / revised and updated with Philip W. Sutton. ed.). Cambridge: Polity.	☐
Further	Berger, P.L. & Luckmann, T. (2011) <i>The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge</i> . London: Penguin.	☒
Further	Best, S. (2003) <i>A Beginner's Guide to Social Theory</i> . London: Sage.	☒
Further	Macionis, J.J. & Plummer, K. (2011) <i>Sociology: A Global Introduction</i> . Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education Limited.	☐
Further	Schaefer, R.T. (2018). <i>Sociology</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill.	☐
Further	Wilkinson, R. and Pickett, K. (2009) <i>The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better</i> . London: Allen Lane.	☐