Module Specification

Sociology of Sexes, Genders, and Sexualities

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

Contents

Module Specification 1

Part 1: Information 2

Part 2: Description 2

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods 4

Part 4: Assessment 5

Part 5: Contributes towards 7

Part 1: Information

Module title: Sociology of Sexes, Genders, and Sexualities

Module code: UZSYJD-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Sociology and Criminology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module will consider the sociology of sexes, genders, and sexualities. We will investigate how these operate to provide a framework for society and to our individual lives and lifecourse. Students will analyse to what extent these are socially constructed, how they are framed in our media, what ideologies are at work behind the stories told about these categories and who decides which sexualities and genders are ‘different’ and compared to what.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: To provide a critical overview of the state of mainstream political debate in Britain and North America in particular on trans and transgender rights and inclusion;

To provide opportunities for the critical analysis of personal identity in relation to classic sociological theory on socialisation into sex, gender, and sexuality identities and roles;

To develop students' critical thinking on the framing of the so-called 'gender wars' or 'culture wars' in the UK.

Outline syllabus: The syllabus will typically include:

This module will analyse social constructions and framings of identity categories previously assumed to be fixed and congruent - sex, gender, and sexuality. The module will critique majority triads such as male, masculine, heterosexual and female, feminine, heterosexual. The module will use social theory from queer theory, the sociology of sexualities, gender studies, feminist theory, psychology and sexology.

The module will guide students to reflect on the significance of this work during an unfolding political backlash marked by burgeoning sex and gender conservatism, and actual cutbacks to LGBTQ rights and women's rights around the world. The module will use development of the sociological imagination to bring in practical group activities that call on students to analyse their own personal biographies alongside the context of social change and social forces; through for example formative activities such as gender biographies and timelines, group construction of the criteria for post-gender societies.

The Module will focus on a selection of interconnected topics, such as:

Revisiting gender as performative (Butler)
What is queer theory
What are LGBTQ+ rights and which ones are under threat

How useful is sexology today
What's normal about heterosexuality
How do we know we are men or women
What is an intersectional approach to sex, gender, and sexuality
Did colonialism construct gender
What are the 'culture wars'
Are we all trans - trans what?

Students will have the opportunity to engage with a variety of thinkers, such as: Judith Butler, Kate Millett, Ruth Pearce, Leslie Feinberg, Kate Bornstein, Jack Halberstam, Cordelia Fine, bell hooks, RW Connell, Joan Nestle, Michel Foucault, Alison Phipps.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will employ a combination of lectures and seminars. Our pedagogy is interactive, discussion-based, and student-facing. Students are an active part of the learning process, and will be asked to contribute ideas, questions, and critical standpoints. The learning environment is designed to promote peer-to-peer support and exchange.

While teaching and learning will be predominantly classroom based, appropriate use will be made of online resources and learning environments, such as group journalling on pebble pad.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Critically assess different sociological approaches to the fixity and utility of the categories of sex, gender, and sexuality.

MO2 Demonstrate an ability to apply and critically analyse key concepts and theories relating to sex, gender, and sexuality; using an intersectional lens.

MO3 Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which different approaches to sex, gender and sexuality are historically situated

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/123DA3D7-124D-395C-90D6-0A9A3258C839.html?lang=en&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Summative Assessments:

Assessment Task 1: a 2000-word (maximum) essay.

Rationale: The essay ensures that students display the requisite knowledge of the sociological content, and the critical thinking skills required of them at this level.

Assessment Task 2: a 1500 word (maximum) genderography - gender biography - applying queer theory to tracing one's own gendered biography, to include focus on key institutions of socialisation such as the family and schooling using an online workbook or similar software provided by UWE.

Rationale: The genderography exercise allows the students to apply the academic theory covered on the Module to their own personal experiences and identity formation. It is a chance to remove the theory from the abstract and study where that theory intersects with social change and one's own personal biography.

Formative feedback will be provided via seminar discussion groups and tutor drop-in sessions as well as group feedback to the lecture cohort.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: Essay 2000 words (maximum)
Weighting: 60 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: A genderography 1500 words (maximum) gender biography using online workbook software.
Weighting: 40 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)
Description: Essay (2000 words maximum)
Weighting: 60 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)
Description: A genderography 1500 words (maximum) gender biography using online workbook software.
Weighting: 40 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

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Criminology and Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

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Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23