Programme Specification	
Section 1: Basic Data	
Awarding institution/body	UWE
Teaching institution	UWE
Faculty responsible for programme	Social Sciences & Humanities
Programme accredited by	Not Applicable
Highest award title	BA (Hons) Sociology and …. (another half award)
Default award title	NA
Interim award title	Certificate in Higher Education - Social Science; Diploma in Higher Education - Social Science
Modular Scheme title (if different)	HLSS Modular Scheme and IFP
UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	GL73, NL13, PL33, LW34, LX33, LLC3, QL33, LW36, LL73, BL93, LV31, GLK3, RL93, TL73, LM31, LQ31, NL53, GL13, LLF3, CL83, PL93, LR39, GL53, LL32, LV35, LG33, LCH8 Where an associated IV for the other half award has been validated.
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Sociology
On-going/valid until* (*delete as appropriate/insert end date)	Ongoing
Valid from (insert date if appropriate)	September 2000 International Variant from September 1st 2008

<u>Faculty Processes:</u>

(Original Version) Approved by: SSH PMAC (28th May 2008)

(Updated Version) Approved by Professor Adrian Chandler (Chair of SSH PMAC) – 1.9.08

(Final Version) Approved by Professor Adrian Chandler - 27.9.08

International Variant

Valid from September 2008

Variant delivered via   Bachelor of Science in Sociology programme, College of Humanities and Sciences. Virginia Commonwealth University

Section 2: Educational aims of the programme

- To provide a general educational experience in which students might acquire knowledge, skills and those virtues associated with learning and reflection.
- To promote critical, creative and analytical thinking.
- To provide a general foundation for the world of work by equipping students with the broad range of skills, understanding and knowledge employed in a wide range of vocations.
- To impart a broad range of skills: discipline specific, cognitive and general transferable skills, which, together with the points above provide the student with a sound basis for further study.
- To acknowledge the wide diversity of students and their interests through a flexible programme, enabling the student to choose between a variety of modules in order to meet their particular educational needs and interests, and to foster their individual development.
- To encourage scholarship and to foster the virtues of objectivity, reflection and judgment.
- To foster critical study, collaborative and individual, independent learning. This aim includes the promotion of self-criticism and reflexive awareness.
- To provide a programme enriched by research undertaken by members of the sociology school.
- To provide a programme of study that effectively combines with other disciplines or pathways.

Section 3: Learning outcomes of the programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas: …

A Knowledge and understanding

Learning outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies
A Knowledge and understanding of: 1. the key concepts and theoretical approaches that have developed and are developing within sociology; 2. social context, of social diversity and inequality and their impact on the lives of individuals and groups; 3. the value of comparative analysis, in both historical and contemporary contexts; 4. the social nature of the relationship between individuals and groups; 5. social processes underpinning social change and social stability; 6. the nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in gaining sociological knowledge; 7. the relationship between sociological argument and evidence; 8. the distinctive character of sociology in relation to other forms of understanding.	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies:** 1-8 are achieved through the compulsory modules at stages 1-3. These modules look at social theory in an applied context, combining a range of theories/ approaches over a wide range of social and historical contexts. These modules are organised around the theme of Theory, Application and Method. A wide range of option modules allows students to develop these theoretical approaches, to gain more specialise knowledge of particular contexts, and to experience a range of assessment methods. Knowledge of research methods and strategies are developed through levels 1-3. Students may opt to develop these further in their choice of options. **Assessment:** Modules are assessed through a range of methods including essays, seminar presentations, article and book reviews, long essays and projects.

B Intellectual Skills

B Intellectual Skills	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
On successful completion of this award students will be able to demonstrate the following skills: 1. ability to appreciate the complexity of human behaviour, social situations and events and assessing the merits of competing explanations; 2. ability to gather, retrieve and synthesise information; 3. ability to review and evaluate evidence; 4. ability to develop a reasoned argument and critically interpret evidence.	Skill 1 is achieved through compulsory modules through levels 1-3. Skills 2-4 are achieved largely through assessment methods and seminar work. Students are aware of assessment criteria through information in module handbooks, feedback on assessment and through detailed discussion and preparation in seminars. This process is supported by the School-wide skills programme.

C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

C Subject/Professional/Practical Skills	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
On successful completion of this award students will be able to demonstrate the following skills: 1. to investigate sociologically informed questions; 2. to report empirical sociological findings; 3. to use different methods of sociological enquiry; 4. to identify the ethical issues in social research; 5. to undertake and present scholarly work; 6. to examine the relevance and application of academic and practical sociological work to issues of social, public and civic policy.	Students gain an intellectual understanding of methodological issues through compulsory modules, especially through seminar discussion and preparation for assessed work. Practical skills derive from seminar preparation and other assessed work such as essays and reviews. Links between theory and methodology are developed in compulsory modules. Optional modules allow students the opportunity to develop these skills more fully. Skill 6 is developed in compulsory modules and students have the opportunity to focus explicitly on social, public and civic policy issues in a range of optional modules. **Assessment** Skills are assessed across a range of assessment methods.

D Transferable Skills and other attributes

D Transferable skills and other attributes	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
On successful completion of this award students will be able to demonstrate the ability in: 1. learning and study skills; 2. written and oral communication skills in a variety of contexts and modes; 3. statistical and other quantitative techniques; 4. information retrieval skills in relation to primary and secondary sources of information; 5. communication and information technology skills; 6. skills of time planning and management; 7. group work skills.	IT skills are developed from stage 1. Students are introduced to a variety of IT issues in the induction process and have a detailed introduction to library skills. Compulsory modules and many other option modules require the use of conference/ blackboard. All assignments must be word processed. Communication skills are developed through assessment methods such as essays, reviews, seminar presentations and through seminar work. General student study skills are developed through stage 1 and supported by workshops throughout the programme. . **Assessment** Students have to work to strict assessment deadlines, requiring skills of organisation, time management and effective use of sources of information

Section 4: Programme structure
Use next page to provide a structural chart of the programme showing:
- *Level and credit requirements*
- *Interim award requirements*
- *Module diet, including compulsory/core/optional modules*

		Compulsory modules	Optional modules	Interim Awards:

ENTRY
↓
	Level	**Compulsory modules**
		
		• UPSNLF-30-1
		  Sociological
		  Foundations
		• UPSNLG-30-1
		  Sociological Practice
		Core modules
			Optional modules
			
			[Other Half Award = 60 credits]
				Interim Awards:
				• Credit requirements:
				  120 – Certification in
				  Higher Education
				
				• Other requirements
				  None

	Level	**Compulsory modules**
		
		• The Global Self
		  UPSNNG-15-2 (15
		  credits)
		• Social Inequalities
		  UPSNND-15-2(15
		  credits)
		
		Core modules
		
		There are no core modules
		at this stage of the award.
			Optional modules
			Students must also take 30 credits of Sociology (or approved) modules from within the SSH undergraduate modular scheme.
			
			[Other Half Award = 60 credits]
				Interim Awards:
				• Credit requirements:
				  240 – Diploma in
				  Higher Education
				
				• Other requirements
				  None

	Year At	(See International Variant – next page)		

	Level	**Compulsory modules**
		
		• Contemporary
		  Critiques of Modern
		  Society UPSNPA-30-3
		
		Core modules
		
		There are no core modules
		at this stage of the award.
			Optional modules
			
			Students must also take 30 credits of Sociology (or approved) modules from within the SSH undergraduate modular scheme
			
			[Other Half Award = 60 credits]
				Prerequisite requirements
				• Minimum
				  credit/module
				  requirements – 120
				• other – None
				
				Awards:
				• Target/highest
				  BA(hons)
				• Default title - BA
				
				Credit requirements
				BA(Hons) – 360
				BA – 300

→ GRADUATION				

Level 2 BA (Hons) Sociology (half award) International Variant – Sociology undergraduate programme, College of Humanities and Sciences. Virginia Commonwealth University
NOTE: STUDENTS MUST TAKE A TOTAL OF 5 (US three credit – Level 300/400) MODULES (UWE Level 2 (VCU Level 3)

| NOTE: STUDENTS MUST TAKE A TOTAL OF 10 (US three credit – Level 300/400) MODULES (equivalent to UWE Level 2 modules | **Compulsory modules**

Students must take all of the following modules (or equivalent**)**

None | **Optional modules**
Students must take 5 of the following modules (*see also final comment in this column):
• SOCY 320/POLI 320 Research Methods in the Social Sciences
• SOCY 206/AFAM 206/WMNS 206 African American Family Relationships
• SOCY 302 Contemporary Social Problems
• SOCY 304/ANTH 304/WMNS 304 The Family
• SOCY 322 Minority Groups in the United States
• SOCY 327 Urban Sociology
• SOCY 328/INTL 328 Russian Society in Transition
• SOCY 333/WMNS 333 Sociology of Sex and Gender
• SOCY 336/WMNS 336 Violence Against Women
• SOCY 360/RELS 360 Sociology of Religion
• SOCY 402 Sociological Theory
• SOCY 426 Population Dynamics
• SOCY 330/INTL 330 Global Societies: Trends and Issues
• SOCY 321 Class, Status, and Power

Students must also take a further 5 modules for their other Half Award

*It may be possible **for the future** to make other courses at VCU (within the field of Social Sciences and Humanities) available to our students since this is the norm for VCU students. These will be at Level 300 or 400 courses only. Under these circumstances it is envisaged that Joint Honours students (Sociology and …) will then be allowed to take one course outside of the disciplines of their existing programme of study | **Interim Awards:**

• Credit requirements: 240 (EQUIVALENT) – Diploma in Higher Education
• Other requirements None |

Section 5: Entry requirements

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions requirements of the University of the West of England with specific requirements as detailed below:

GCSE levels
Maths/Statistics, English

A & AS Levels
Normally Tariff Points within the range of 200 – 240.

BTEC - An appropriate National Diploma with good standing and final year grades within the range 6 Merits – 2 Distinctions and 4 Merits.

Irish Highers – Passes with grades within the following range: BBB – BBBB.

Access Courses – Validated access course in appropriate subjects.

Baccalaureate – European with between 66% and 70%. International with between 24 and 28 points.

Joint Honours students must check the specific entry requirements of the other subject chosen. The offer made will be a combination of the two.

Students seeking to undertake the international variant are advised that a selection process may apply. Further information is available from the Faculty Academic Registrar (or nominee

Section 6: Assessment Regulations

a) **MAR**   ✓

b) **Approved MAR variant (insert variant)**

c) **Non MAR**

Section 7: Student learning: distinctive features and support

- Induction Programme for orientation and study skills.
- Detailed Student Handbooks and Module Guides.
- Extensive specialist library
- On-line learning resources, Internet, Intranet and email access
- Access to academic tutors and student advisors: dedicated office hours for all staff, trained counsellors for both pastoral and academic support.
- Specialist equipment, resources, and technical support.
- A wide range of teaching and learning strategies and a varied range of assessment modes.
- A strong emphasis on developing analytical and critical skills.
- Conferencing/Blackboard.
- International Variant includes directly comparable features and support. In many areas student support at VCU is superior to that provided at UWE
- International Variant additionally provides access to a range of specialist areas of Sociology that are not available at UWE
- International Variant extends the comparative sociological aspects of the programme as a whole.

Section 8 Reference points/benchmarks

- QAA subject benchmarks.
- University teaching and learning policies.
International Variant was also planned in accordance with QAA benchmarked requirements

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications. These are available on the University Intranet.

Programme monitoring and review may lead to changes to approved programmes. There may be a time lag between approval of such changes/modifications and their incorporation into an authorised programme specification. Enquiries about any recent changes to the programme made since this specification was authorised should be made to the relevant Faculty Administrator.