School of Sociology and Social Policy
Year 3 Undergraduate Modules

Analyzing Public Policy

The module provides a critical understanding of how policy is formulated, implemented and evaluated. It focuses on key phases of the policy process, from agenda-setting to policy impact and provides an applied understanding of policy analysis by examining relevant case studies e.g. child abuse and ageing population. It explores the influence of current trends in light of demographic, economic, socio-cultural and political developments.

Applied Ethics and Society

The module explores the application of moral philosophy and applied ethics to various social issues including, but not limited to, addiction, abortion, euthanasia, migration and global justice. It will review the main ideas and theorists from the fields of consequentialism, deontology and virtue ethics and it will introduce students to the contemporary state of various socially and ethically problematic topics.

Climate Change and Society

This module deals with the interface between climate change, energy systems, society and culture, focusing on: the making of climate science; understanding controversy over the role of climate science in public policies; the social, policy and cultural meanings and communication of climate science and climate change; the impact of climate change concerns on energy systems; the social, economic and ethical issues raised by energy production technologies including sustainable energy; social practices and energy consumption; and climate, energy and society from a global perspective.

Contemporary Developments in Welfare Policy

The module investigates contemporary developments in the provision and delivery of welfare services. It examines the increasing focus on markets, privatisation and consumer choice, partnerships, the personalisation of service delivery, user involvement, and the increasing role of the not-for-profit sector in service delivery. It therefore offers an awareness of a number of welfare institutions, policies and services, including the health service, social care and social security.

Crime and Crime Control in Post-Apartheid South Africa

The aim of this module is to apply the insights and ideas developed elsewhere on the programme in the context of a relatively new democracy struggling to come to terms with a past marked by gross violations of human rights. The module explores how South Africa has dealt with the legacy of apartheid and the persistence of high rates of violent crime. The specific topics examined will vary but may include the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission set up following the end of apartheid, problems of organised crime and gangsterism, policing and police reform and community safety and the management of space.

Exploring Social and Cultural Life Through Films

Using different genres of film, you'll examine contemporary theoretical and empirical debates in relation to issues associated with the production and contestation of identity, culture, and everyday
life. Specifically, the module will explore topics such as identity, multiculturalism, capitalism, consumerism, human rights, youth culture, dress and fashion, intimacy, friendship, sexuality, and transgenderism. Films that have been used in the module includes: ‘The Devil Wears Prada’, ‘The Help’, ‘East is East’, and ‘Inequality for All’.

**Gender, The Family and Social Policy**

A module introducing feminist approaches to social policies and how these have been underpinned by ideas around gender difference and the family. How do policies reflect and perpetuate the gendered division of labour? To what extent is ‘gender equality’ a real policy commitment? The module will thus examine how social policy excludes or incorporates women at the intersection of the public and private. It also considers how gender intersects with other axes of difference and inequality, such as ‘race’ and class.

**Hate Crime**

The whole notion of ‘hate crime’ as a distinct category of offending is a relatively recent one. This module adopts a critical stance to the development and definition of ‘hate crime’ in different jurisdictions around the world. Answers are sought to some difficult questions. To what extent are ‘hate crimes’ motivated by hatred? What characteristics – ‘race’, ethnicity, sex, sexuality, (dis)ability, lifestyle choice – should be covered by anti-hate crime legislation? Why is this type of offending seen as especially serious and socially harmful? And how should it be dealt with?

**Migration and Transnationalism**

You’ll examine issues connected to the movement and settlement of people in Europe, considering migration and citizenship debates and practices in a critical, comparative and historically informed manner. The first part of the course explores the political, social and economic factors that cause people to move in an increasingly interconnected world. The second part of the course is dedicated to the examination of the different theories of integration and settlement and processes of inclusion and exclusion.

**Prison and Incarceration**

This module addresses both the sociology of incarceration (i.e. routes to, reasons for, and justifications given for enforced removal of liberty and confinement) and the sociology of prisons (i.e. social and institutional characteristics of imprisonment). You will consider the notion of a criminally deviant act and consequent ramifications (e.g. imprisonment), the relationship between welfare provision and imprisonment rates (e.g. social exclusion issues), the political and historical natures of punishment (e.g. overt versus covert practices), prisoner population demographics in the UK, roles, responsibilities, and issues for Her Majesty’s Prison Service, prison culture (both staff and inmate), institutionalisation theory and the nature of imprisonment, provision and receipt experiences of prison mental healthcare, sociological research in prisons (e.g. (in)famous ethnographies / contemporary analysis), and future directions for imprisonment (e.g. reducing re-offending strategies).

**Sex Crime**

The module takes a specific form of crime for analysis, sex crime. Sex offenders constitute a heterogeneous group of individuals, so differences will be explored. Societal response will also be
evaluated. The supervision and management of sex offenders will be studied, plus the re-integration of sex offenders into the community. The module also includes an historical analysis of sex behaviours and society's conceptualisations of sexual deviance and socially accepted sexual pleasures. Themes for exploration include notions of age and private/public divide.

**Sociological Perspectives on Medicine: The Case of Psychiatry**

The module will consider material that contributes to a sociological understanding of current psychiatric practice as an exemplar of sociological perspectives upon the wider field of medical endeavour. The material will include:

- An overview of conventional schemes of psychiatric phenomenology and classification
- Contemporary practice
- Voices from "experts by experience"
- Mental health law
- Critical and historical perspectives of mental health practice
- Perceptions of and responses to risk
- The nature and sociological determinants of an "illness" model
- The influences of professional and commercial interests
- The strengths and weaknesses of policy based upon evidence based medicine

**Technology, Material Culture and Social Change**

This module uses everyday objects and technologies to explore large-scale social change and the history of modernity. You'll use social theory, material cultural analysis and cultural history to explore the introduction and development of technologies in fields such as transport, communications, computing, social media, fashion and finance. You'll have two optional field trips, possibly outside of Nottingham, to explore manufacture, design and social uses of material objects.

**Terrorism and Extremism in the United Kingdom**

The aim of this module is to engage with the academic debate concerning the definition of terrorism and extremism and place this in the context of the British experience. Students will explore the causes and changing nature of terrorism and consider both the processes by which individuals are motivated to use terrorist activity and the more collective dynamics by which groups engaged in terrorism are both developed and sustained. Building on a case study of Northern Ireland, the module will seek to place current security threats to the United Kingdom in context and consider the contemporary debate concerning extremism (animal rights, Islamist, left and right wing). Responses to such security threats will be critically analysed.

**Tourism, Identity and Risk**

You will explore contemporary theoretical debates in the sociology of tourism, with particular emphasis on how tourism locations are constructed, developed and sustained, the powers and dangers of the ‘tourist gaze’, tourism labour markets, tourism and identity, tourism and risk, and social/cultural change.