

You do not need to purchase the books listed and it is not compulsory that you cover all the material listed. Detailed reading lists will be supplied by module lecturers when you start your modules in September.

## Sociology

When teaching begins you will be given detailed reading lists for each module that you will be taking within the school in semester one. You will be set reading from different books and articles each week, depending on the topics you are studying, and you will also engage in further reading from the reading lists for topics that you choose to write about in your assignments or that are of particular interest to you.

The books on this list will not be set reading for the course, but they are good introductions to the unique ways of thinking about and relating to the world that can be said to characterise sociology as both an academic discipline and an outlook on life. They are all written in quite different styles so, if you can, it is worth having a quick look at how each author writes before deciding which you might like to read.

### **Back, L. (2007) *The Art of Listening*. Oxford: Berg**

Our culture is one that speaks rather than listens. From reality TV to political rallies, there is a clamour to be heard, to narrate, and to receive attention. It reduces 'reality' to revelation and voyeurism. *The Art of Listening* argues that this way of life is having severe and damaging consequences in a world that is increasingly globalised and interconnected. It addresses the question: how can we listen more carefully? Social and cultural theory is combined with real stories from the experiences of the desperate stowaways who hide in the undercarriages of jet planes in order to seek asylum, to the young working-class people who use tattooing to commemorate a lost love.

*The Art of Listening* shows how sociology is in a unique position to record 'life passed in living' and to listen to complex experiences with humility and ethical care, providing a resource to understand the contemporary world while pointing to the possibility of a different kind of future.

### **Bauman, Z. and May, T. (2019) *Thinking Sociologically*, 3rd ed. Oxford: Basil Blackwell**

*Thinking Sociologically* offers a stimulating exploration of the underlying assumptions and tacit expectations which structure our view of the world. The authors review recent developments in society and examine the applicability of sociology to everyday life. Issues of climate change, sustainability, inequality, social justice, inclusion and the role of social media have risen to prominence, and we are collectively challenging our ways of thinking about intimacy, community, consumption, ethics, social identity, and more.

This new third edition has been revised to reflect these and other transformations in our lives, helping us to think sociologically about the consequences of these burgeoning issues, how we organize our societies, understand ourselves and lead our lives.

### **Lemert, C. (2011) *Social Things: An Introduction to the Sociological Life*, 5th ed. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield**

Charles Lemert's *Social Things* introduces the sociological imagination through lively, memorable stories and interpretations. For the fifth edition: the history of sociology section is updated to incorporate new discussions of the way sociological ideas have spread into numerous other fields to inform the new post-disciplinary social theory; the book now includes original yet practically vivid presentations of globalisation, queer theory, critical race theory, and much else; and an entirely new

chapter, "Global Things on a Fragile Planet," addresses the environmental crises that challenge our global world.

**Plummer, K. (2016) *Sociology: The Basics*, 2nd ed. Abingdon: Routledge**

This is an accessible and comprehensive introduction to the diverse ways of thinking about social life, examining: the scope, history and purpose of sociology; ways of understanding society and 'the social'; the state of the world we live in today; suffering and social inequalities; key tools for researching and thinking about society; the impact of the digital world and new technologies; and the values and the role of sociology in making a better world for all. The reader is encouraged to think critically about the structures, meanings, histories and cultures found in the rapidly changing world we live in.

**Discover Society**

Please also have a look at [Discover Society](#) – an online publication aimed at A level students and first-year undergraduates, which has new articles appearing all the time giving a sociological viewpoint on contemporary issues such as COVID-19, the Black Lives Matter movement and much more besides.

In addition to these, and particularly for those who haven't studied sociology previously, you might find these books helpful and interesting as they give brief accounts of a wide range of different sociological terms and concepts:

**Giddens, A. and Sutton, P. (2017) *Essential Concepts in Sociology*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Polity**

Social life is in a constant process of change, and sociology can never stand still. As a result, sociology today is a theoretically diverse enterprise, covering a huge range of subjects and drawing on a broad array of research methods. Central to this endeavour is the use of core concepts and ideas which allow sociologists to make sense of societies, though our understanding of these concepts necessarily evolves and changes.

This clear and jargon-free book introduces a careful selection of essential concepts that have helped to shape sociology and others that continue to do so. Going beyond brief, dictionary-style definitions, it provides an extended discussion of each concept which sets it in historical and theoretical context, explores its main meanings in use, introduces relevant criticisms, and points readers to its ongoing development in contemporary research and theorizing.

Organised in ten thematic sections, the book offers a portrait of sociology through its essential concepts, ranging from capitalism, identity and deviance to globalisation, the environment and intersectionality. It will be essential reading for all those new to sociology as well as anyone seeking a reliable route map for a rapidly changing world.

**Scott, J. (2014) *A Dictionary of Sociology*, 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press**

*The Dictionary of Sociology* contains more than 2,500 entries on the terminology, methods, concepts, and thinkers in the field, as well as from the related fields of psychology, economics, anthropology, philosophy, and political science. For this fourth edition, revisions reflect current intellectual debates and social conditions, particularly in relation to global and multi-cultural issues. New entries cover relevant contemporary concepts, such as climate change, social media, terrorism, and intersectionality, as well as key living sociologists.

And finally, you might want to consider looking at a study skills text. There are lots of these available, and different styles will suit different readers. Here is an example you might like to have a look at:

Moore, S. et al. (2010) *The Ultimate Study Skills Handbook*. Maidenhead: Open University Press