

BA (Hons) Applied Psychology & Sociology [as planned for 2018-19]

LEVEL 4

Semester 1	SS413 Introduction to Applied Psychology	SS424 Sociological Imaginations	SS430 Contemporary Social Inequalities
	SS423 Developmental Psychology	SS422 Foundations of Sociology	SS448 Introduction to Psychological Research Methods

LEVEL 5

Semester 1	SS509 Psychology, Cognition & Social Worlds	SS510 Psychology, the Body & Individual Differences	SS511 Empirical Psychology	SS526 Community Engagement: Theory into Practice	SS519 Theorising the Social World
				or SS528 Critical Analysis	SS520 Sociology and the Life Course

LEVEL 6

Semester 1	SS618 Critical Community Psychology	SS605 Sociology Topic 1***	
	Option choice 1*: SS619 Critical Addiction Studies or SS606 Cyberpsychology or SS617 Psychology, Nature & Ecological Crisis or SS649 Mental Disorder & Anthropology or SS655 Sexualities	SS611 Sociology Topic 2***	

* Option choices may vary depending on staff availability and expertise. This is an indicative list.

**Please note that in order to be eligible for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society (GBC), you must take and pass SS603 Psychology Dissertation. Students must also gain at least a Second Class Honours degree. Achieving Second Class Honours or better is the equivalent of receiving an average overall grade of approximately 50% or higher.

*** Indicative list of topics: Sociology of Religion; Environment and Society; Science, Culture and Society; Sociology of the Body; Mobile Lives, Death and Society; Sociology of the Internet; Sociology of Leisure, Sociology of Food, Climate Change; Lifestyle Media; Families and Parenting; Childhood and Society

This section explains the modules' content:

LEVEL 4

SS413 Introduction to Applied Psychology

This module will introduce students to the basic approaches and theories within psychology and to consider issues of application in the field.

SS424 Sociological Imaginations

This module introduces contemporary 'sociological imaginations' of the social world and gives students the opportunity to apply sociological theories and concepts to contemporary topics. The module is designed to develop students' ability to think sociologically, by first introducing them to key sociological concepts and then exploring how these are applied in contemporary sociological research examples.

SS430 Contemporary Social Inequalities

This module provides the foundations for undertaking a course of study in social sciences by providing students with the theoretical and conceptual tools to confront normative/ normalising explanations of difference and inequality. Students will understand the ways that 'differences' and inequalities are formed and their consequences for everyday lived realities.

SS423 Developmental Psychology

The module is compulsory for all Psychology students. It introduces some key theories and topics in child development and lifespan development. It examines issues from infancy through middle-childhood to adulthood to explore how people develop through time. It provides a historical, biological, social and cultural context for studying child development, and life-span development, to help students frame the theoretical perspectives presented. Students are assessed on their broad knowledge of the discipline, as well as on one specific area.

SS422 Foundations of Sociology

The module aims to equip students with an understanding of traditional sociological theory and its applications today. It aims to introduce the foundations of sociology including key thinkers, key debates, and main theoretical perspectives. The module also examines the development of classical ideas and the continued relevance for different sociological perspectives throughout the twentieth century. Recent challenges to traditional sociological theory will be also examined and assessed.

SS448 Introduction to Psychological Research Methods

The module introduces students to the range of research methods used in psychology and enables students to develop the skills necessary to collect and analyse quantitative data. It also provides an introduction to qualitative data collection and analysis.

LEVEL 5

SS509 Psychology, Cognition & Social Worlds

This module introduces two core areas of psychology: cognitive and social psychology. The module explores a range of theory and research concerned with our thinking, behaviour and experiences in the social world. Students are introduced to core topics in social and cognitive psychology, related empirical findings, varied theoretical positions and applications that seek to explain human behavior in a social environment. The module meets the British Psychological Society accreditation requirements for coverage and assessment of cognitive and social psychology.

SS510 Psychology, the Body & Individual Differences

Through the in-depth exploration of key applied topics in psychology the module provides students with knowledge and understanding of two core areas of psychology: biological psychology and the psychology of individual differences. It covers classic and contemporary theory, research, debate and real-world applications in these areas, and addresses related social, cultural, conceptual and historical issues. The module meets the British Psychological Society accreditation requirements for coverage and assessment of biological psychology and the psychology of individual differences.

SS511 Empirical Psychology

Students learn about quantitative and qualitative research methods in psychology including advanced experimental design, multivariate analyses, and qualitative research techniques. Students gain experience in small-scale research projects and develop skills in reviewing literature, research design, data collection, data analysis, and report writing. The module meets the British Psychological Society (BPS) accreditation requirements for coverage and assessment of empirical research methods in psychology.

SS526 Community Engagement: Theory into Practice

This module aims to provide a different experience from other modules available at university. It offers the opportunity to explore personal values and aspirations while taking a 50 hour project/ voluntary engagement with a local not for profit organisation. The assessments encourage students to look at their personal journey as well as the policy and practice of the organisation in which their project is based.

SS528 Critical Analysis

In this module students are introduced to different modes and techniques of academic criticism and debate, in particular: methodological, theoretical, and ethical or ideological. Beyond this, the content of the module is chosen by each student from a list of psychology-oriented topics offered by the module team. Each topic is contextualized in wider social science debates and set within current academic debate in its field. Students are introduced to the broad parameters of research and theory in the field of their chosen topic.

SS519 Theorising the Social World

This module introduces students to contemporary sociological and social theory including debates around neo-liberalism and the individualisation thesis including consumption, choice, freedom, notions of the self and globalization. The second part of the module is based around the continued relevance of gender, race and intersectionality, social class and different notions of the self.

SS520 Sociology and the Life Course

Through the metaphor of the life course the module examines a range of substantive areas of current sociological interest. The course will introduce students to contemporary areas of study through different modes of academic critique and evaluation inherent in studies of childhood, youth, adulthood, leisure, work, aging, and death.

LEVEL 6

SS618 Critical Community Psychology

This twelve week module explores a critical, community-based model of psychology. Students develop understanding of: the theoretical framework, core concepts, methods and ideological principles which underpin critical community psychology, including issues such as empowerment, marginalisation and social justice; and methods like Participatory Action Research. They are also introduced to examples of critical community psychology research in practice. Students have several opportunities to put this teaching into practice, for example through participating in a Day of Social Justice.

SS605 Sociology Topic 1***

This module is designed to enable students to study areas of sociological interest and research of staff within the School. Special topics will be structured around analysis of substantive issues

appropriate to current sociology. Students will apply concepts and theories to a specific topic; they will synthesise a range of research material and reach their own conclusions. Throughout the course students will be expected to draw on their wider sociological knowledge gained at levels four and five, and to use this to place in wider context their topic of study.

SS619 Critical Addiction Studies

This module provides a focus of study and research across the sciences. Analysing and critically engaging with interpretations of addiction will enable students to develop an understanding of the role of discourse in directing both addiction research and policy. This critical engagement with addiction discourses will enable students to critically evaluate society's response to Addiction, and to determine the relative effectiveness of drug policy in different countries, and the theories underpinning their approaches.

SS606 Cyberpsychology

This module introduces students to a specialist area which explores psychological phenomena within the context of human-technology interaction. It examines how interactive technologies mediate individual's sense of self, experience of relationships, and psychological well-being.

SS617 Psychology, Nature & Ecological Crisis

The focus of this module is the relationship between humans, wellbeing and the natural environment; against the backdrop of climate change and wider ecological crisis. The module critically considers work in psychology and the social sciences addressing these issues, how they interrelate, and related practical interventions.

SS649 Mental Disorder & Anthropology

This module introduces students to theories and methods in psychological, psychiatric and medical anthropology. It will explore core topics, debates and research related to mental health, illness and recovery. Students will examine varied interpretations; and linkages between professional and academic accounts of mental illness and individuals' experiences. This involves exploring cultural assumptions of mental illness; their relation to religious institutions and cosmologies, migration, modernity, neo-liberal globalisation; and assemblages of harm inflicted by political, economic and institutional power on people's lives.

SS655 Sexualities

The module aims to develop students' critical understanding of different theoretical and methodological approaches to sex and sexualities within psychology (including biological, sexological, postmodern, feminist and queer perspectives). The role of psychology in shaping definitions of 'normal' or 'transgressive' sexualities in changing historical and political contexts is examined. The module will explore social meanings and cultural representations of sexuality and their intersection with gender ideologies, and examine how these shape the sexual practices and subjectivities of individuals and collectives.

SS611 Sociology Topic 2***

This module is designed to enable students to study areas of sociological interest and research of staff within the School. Special topics will be structured around analysis of substantive issues appropriate to current sociology. Students will apply concepts and theories to a specific topic; they will synthesise a range of research material and reach their own conclusions. Throughout the course students will be expected to draw on their wider sociological knowledge gained at levels 4 and 5, and to use this to place in wider context their topic of study.

SS603 Psychology Dissertation**

This enquiry-based module is designed to enable students taking Applied Psychology courses to competently initiate, design, conduct, analyse, interpret and report an empirical research study under appropriate supervision. In addition to a series of initial lectures and workshops, and specially designed online resources, students attend tutorials with their allocated supervisor, which guide extensive independent study culminating in a written research report. The module meets the British

Psychological Society (BPS) accreditation requirements that students complete an empirical dissertation project.

SS629 Dissertation

This enquiry-based module is designed to enable students to show their ability to present fully developed and evidenced arguments of an academic nature on a topic of their choice in an extended written submission. It provides an opportunity to demonstrate the research, critical thinking, organisational and writing skills developed over the course of an undergraduate degree.

STUDENT CONSULTATION

Feedback has been elicited from students and provided by students to staff in a number of ways including module evaluations, through course reps at each level, and via level-wide meetings with the course leader. The planned changes set out above have been outlined in three student consultation meetings where students were asked for feedback (held in December 2018), as well as in a Courses Board attended by Applied Psychology and Sociology course reps.

REQUEST FOR FURTHER STUDENT FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED CHANGES

We invite you to submit any additional comments on the proposed changes or any other aspects of the Applied Psychology and Sociology BA (Hons) as part of the Curriculum Development Review.

Comments can be made via email to your Course Leader, Nicola Khan (N.Khan@brighton.ac.uk).

Deadline for comments is 30th March 2018