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**Studying subjects related to Sociology at University**

This handout provides some suggestions for reading and videos that can help you think about applying for subjects related to Sociology at University. It also has suggestions for deepening your sociological knowledge.

**Degrees in Sociology**

The Complete University Guide provides information about what Sociology is as a subject, why you should study it and what jobs it can lead to. This page can be found [here](https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/subject-guide/sociology)

The site states:

Sociology is the scientific study of behaviour by people in the society in which they live, how it came about, how it's organised and developed and what it may become in the future. It's a social science. Studying Sociology uses methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis, which allows you to understand people as they adapt and change to order and disorder.

This is a quick video that explains the University of Surrey’s Sociology course [here](https://youtu.be/d7kSXZkHXoU)

Degrees in Sociology can vary a lot in the types of topics they cover, covering everything from gender identity, politics, crime, media, ethnic identities, family structures, culture etc. You will need to research the courses to find the best mix of options for you. Most courses will also have a theoretical and methodological element and you will need to undertake research as part of your final dissertation.

**Degrees in Criminology**

Criminology degrees can vary quite a lot between universities. All will have Sociological content, as theory makes up the basis of Criminology. Other subjects that could be combined within the degree are Psychology, Media, Forensics (which may include Biology and Anthropology) and Law. Types of topics will include punishment, justice, global crime, explanations of crime, terrorism etc.

A student discusses her experience of doing a Criminology degree and her reasons for choosing this degree [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyllRT3b_nU)

Information about what you can do with a degree in Criminology can be found [here](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/criminology)

**Degrees in Social Anthropology**

Anthropology is the study of human cultures. Anthropologists immerse themselves in the lives of the people they are studying to understand the culture in terms of the interpersonal relationships, decision making, economics and history.

Have a look at this video of students at the University of Kent explaining what it is [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8xRkaIRyJ0) and this one with students and teachers at the London School of Economics [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSLBz7O7kNk)

**Websites for further research and reading:**

One of the great things about Sociology, Criminology and Anthropology is that issues about society are always in the news.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/family>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/ukcrime>

Sites for further research:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology> - have a look at the ‘classic texts’

Anthropology

<https://www.therai.org.uk> – The Royal Anthropological Institute website is full of clips, research, photos and information about this subject.

**Books to read to broaden your sociological knowledge:**

Just some suggestions:

* ‘Gang Leader for a Day’, Sudhir Venkatesh – real life research with a Gang in Chicago
* ‘1984’ George Orwell – set in an imagined future where the government has complete control over the population.
* ‘Chavs’ – Owen Jones – class inequality in the UK
* ‘Goth’ – Paul Hodkinson – an analysis of what it’s like to be a ‘Goth’ in the UK today
* ‘Communist Manifesto’ – Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels – harder to read but short. Can download for free online.
* ‘An Introduction to Social Anthropology: Sharing our Worlds’ – Joy Hendry

**Film/TV to Watch:**

Any film or TV show about society is relevant – you just need to think like a sociologist – what does it show us about society? What else would you want to know?

* ‘Educating Rita’ - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z8OcniWU-Y>. Consider what the film tells us about social class, gender roles and education. What did you think of the key characters, Rita, Frank and Rita’s husband Denny? How do their social backgrounds influence their behaviour?
* Any of the ‘Educating’ series: Manchester, Yorkshire, Cardiff – loads of these on Youtube. Consider what it shows us about inequalities and issues in education today.
* ‘Teenage Knife Wars’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8L0sIrjOzc>

**Progression Opportunities with these sorts of degrees** – understand possible progression routes and related careers:

* <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/subjects/what-can-you-do-sociology-degree>
* Careers using Sociology: please follow this [link](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.britsoc.co.uk%2Fwhat-is-sociology%2Fsociologist-careers%2F&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cv.harman%40surrey.ac.uk%7C827652ba45c942f0fe8d08d7e626f380%7C6b902693107440aa9e21d89446a2ebb5%7C0%7C0%7C637230927282871909&amp;sdata=bzMUA511KA%2FUEK4%2FDpszhb0s7qye%2BAS7dMQ4zV5TGCY%3D&amp;reserved=0)
* Advice for becoming a student: please follow this [link](https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/apr/20/speak-out-get-feedback-and-dont-be-a-consumer-advice-for-a-new-student)

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