

Department of Sociology and Criminology: 3rd year handbook 2026-2027



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & CRIMINOLOGY



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3rd Year Coordinator: Kieran Keohane

Third Year Course Booklet

2026-2027

Table of Contents

Welcome to Third Year...	2
From the Director of the Undergraduate Programme	2
From the 3rd Year Co-ordinator	2
Mission Statement of the Department	3
Introduction to Year 3	3
Where to Find Help and Resources	4
Third Year Co-ordinator	4
The Main Office	4
Undergraduate Student Experience Committee	4
Academic Advisor	4
Department Staff Contact Details	4
Third Year Modules offered 2026/2027	5
Fulfilling Module Work Requirements	5
Guidance on Self-Directed Study	6
General Guidelines for Essays	6
Recommended Essay Structure	6
Referencing	7
Academic Honesty & Integrity	7
Good academic practice guidelines	7
Plagiarism, and the use of AI / ChatGPT	7
Submitting Work & Penalties for Late Submissions	8
Appendix 1. Module Requirements for Different Degree Types	9

Welcome to Third Year...

From the Head of Sociology and Criminology

Welcome to your third year in the Department of Sociology & Criminology at UCC! We hope you will continue to have a great experience here. Supported by the academic staff and professional services staff we know that you will enjoy world class research led teaching on a variety of topics that seek to both better understand our social world and make a difference to it. In undertaking your undergraduate programme with us you have developed your sociological imagination and in these times of accelerated social change it is so important to engage with social issues and social problems through this lens.

The courses are primarily on-campus. Attendance at lectures, discussions in tutorials, exchanging views with other students and visiting the library are essential parts of your undergraduate experience. College is a time for exploration and thinking anew, engaging with new perspectives, meeting new people, and joining UCC clubs and societies. To make the most of it, we advise anyone to cut down on social media and screen time, fill your bag with interesting books whether they are on the course or not, and bring a notebook and pen everywhere, not just to take notes on your lectures, but to write down your own thoughts.

We hope you will have a great experience with us, develop many transferrable skills and especially critical thinking skills that will take you into your future careers and life. We wish you an excellent year ahead!

Dr. Tracey Skillington
Head of Department, Sociology and Criminology, UCC

From the Director of the Undergraduate Programme

Is there a better time to study Sociology? We are living through a period of deep uncertainty and social transition. Global crises - such as pandemics, housing, cost of living and other crises, social media and artificial intelligence, protracted wars, conflicts and ongoing genocides, climate breakdown, and the resurgence of fascism and other extremist ideologies - bring many social issues into sharper focus. These can exacerbate structural inequalities, economic crises, global inhumanities, digital divides, and the spread of extremist violence, to name but a few. At the same time, we witness the rise of various social movements of resistance and hope, including anti-war activism, the global Palestine solidarity movement, pro-democracy and climate movements and renewed struggles for justice and equality. These are also some of the topics we research and teach in Sociology.

In our programme you'll explore a wide range of sociological questions through a diverse suite of modules including: social theory, sociology of violence, cities, culture & art, trauma and denial, migration, race & ethnicity, human rights, global justice, crime and deviance, body and culture, class, gender, sexualities, climate change, sustainable development, media, health and illness and family life. We deliver research-based teaching that combines theory and practice in ways that encourage students to question the social world as it is and think about the world as it could be.

The sections below contain further information on the undergraduate Sociology programme, our Department and its academic policies. If you have any questions regarding a particular module, please contact the coordinator of that module. Please do not hesitate to email me (theresa.okeefe@ucc.ie) if you have any further questions.

We very much look forward to guiding you on your learning journey.

Dr Tom Boland
Director, Undergraduate Studies

From the 3rd Year Co-ordinator

Well-done on reaching the final year of your undergraduate degree. I and all the sociology and criminology teaching staff are looking forward to working with you over the coming academic year.

In this booklet you will find all the necessary information regarding the Third Year Programme. Please read it carefully and refer to it when needed throughout the year.

This year you will have the opportunity to delve further into sociological theory as well as explore specific sociological topics, ranging from gender to the environment. You will also be able to solidify your research skills by undertaking a research project based on a topic of your choice. The overall objective of the Third Year Programme in Sociology is not only to deepen your knowledge of sociology, but to also explore your sociological imagination further while developing analytical and critical skills embedded in strong theoretical and research capabilities.

Please do not hesitate to email me at k.keohane@ucc.ie if you have any questions. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you best of luck in the coming academic year and I hope you enjoy continuing your sociological journey with us!

Prof Kieran Keohane, Third Year Co-ordinator

Mission Statement of the Department

Sociology & Criminology at UCC is at the cutting edge of teaching and research on the intersection between society, economy, ecology, politics, crime, and culture. Staff pride themselves in being leaders in frontier research on sociological, criminological, and anthropological theory, participatory, ethnographic, and creative methodologies, political and cultural transformation, social inequalities, gender, sexuality, identity, migration, crime, violence and social justice, climate change, sustainable development, health, cities and societies of the future. Embracing the University's ethos of independent thinking, the department offers a unique platform to acquire theoretical and methodological skills applicable to a wide range of research areas. Placing a strong emphasis on academic freedom in the interest of community service, social justice and societal relevance, the department of Sociology & Criminology strives to maintain its distinctive profile as a centre of research and teaching excellence, enabling our students to understand our contemporary society in the light of social justice, ideals, and core values, so that we may think our way through our present challenges and imaginatively reinvent ourselves.

Introduction to Year 3

The main objective of the Third Year Programme in Sociology is to deepen your knowledge of the discipline of sociology, both substantively and theoretically, and to develop further your analytical and critical capacities. Social theory (see SC3001), social research methods (see SC3055), and in-depth knowledge of empirical areas.

The courses SC3001 and SC3055 also develop necessary capacities for the practice of sociology, that is, the undertaking of sociological research. SC3055 gives you the opportunity to work closely with a member of staff, as your supervisor, and to produce a piece of significant sociological writing. Viewed together, these courses offer a synthetic approach to the study of society and social processes, with theory and empirical inquiry seen as intertwined and interdependent components. Students will find a similar interdependency of theory and research in the optional courses offered.

The Third Year Programme also seeks to further develop students' writing skills. Being able to express oneself clearly, concisely, and logically is a necessary skill for any career. Accordingly, there is a year's work component in all courses, typically an essay. General guidelines for writing and submitting essays are contained below in this booklet.

SC3001 is a required module and all sociology students (excluding those taking only 10 or 20 credits of sociology) are required to take it. SC3055 is optional but worth 15 credits. The required number of additional options is then taken up from the list offered for the current year.

Students in BsocSc

Students in BsocSc (social science) who wish to be eligible for postgraduate studies in Sociology are advised to take at least 45 credits of Sociology overall in Second and Third Social Science which must have included

SC2014 Classical Social Theory,

SC2015 Critical Social Theory

SC3001 Contemporary Social Theory

and SC3055 Research Project 2 (or equivalent i.e. SS3031 Social Research Report).

Where to Find Help and Resources

Third Year Co-ordinator

Each year the Department nominates a staff member whom students may contact if they have course-related difficulties. For the academic year 2026-2027 Prof. Kieran Keohane will be the relevant contact person for third year students. He can be contacted by email k.keohane@ucc.ie to answer queries or to arrange an appointment.

The Main Office

The main office is located on the First Floor, Askive, Donovan Road.

Please contact Gemma McCarthy (gemmamccarthy@ucc.ie) or Caroline Healy (caroline.healy@ucc.ie) if you have any queries.

Undergraduate Student Experience Committee

The Department has an Undergraduate Student Experience Committee which consists of elected student representatives for the different courses and years, and a number of members of staff. The committee meets twice each semester and enables students to contribute to the business of the Department. Students are urged to exercise their right to do this by direct participation on the committee or by channeling suggestions, comments and/or complaints through their representatives. The Department is proud of the fact that it was one of the first departments at UCC with such a committee, and its effectiveness depends upon the input of students.

Academic Advisor

You will have been assigned an academic member of staff as your Academic Advisor. They are available to you to discuss your academic progress. The Academic Advisor will undertake this role for the duration of your degree and will refer you on to student well-being services if you encounter personal or family problems.

(<https://www.ucc.ie/en/students/wellbeing/>)

Department Staff Contact Details

Dr Yasmine Ahmed	yasmine.ahmed@ucc.ie
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Dr. James Windle	james.windle@ucc.ie

Modules and Module Requirements

Third Year Modules offered 2026/2027

Semester 1	Credits	Semester 2	Credits
SC3001 Social Theory: Paradigms & Perspectives	5	SC3003 Understanding Globalisation and Development	5
SC3004 The Sociology of Community	5	SC3067 Sociology of Violence	5
SC3025 Health and Scientific Deviance (for Public Health students only)	5	SC3009 Religion and Civilisation in Sociological and Anthropological perspective	5
SC3055 Research Project	Takes place over semester 1 and semester 2		15
		SC3012 Sociology of the Media	5
SC3062 Sociology of Law: Legal Justice, Human Rights and Social Change	5	SC3029 Sociology of the Environment	5
SC3066 Medical Sociology	5	SC3046 Gender, Sexuality and Inequality	5
SC2034 Sociology of the City	5		
		SC2018 Sociology of Culture and Art	5

Please note that a module will be offered only if the minimum number of students (10) are registered for it

For all up to date information on **modules** please click here: [Book of Modules](#)

Timetables 2026 / 2027

For all up to date information on your **timetables** please click here: [My Timetable](#)

Academic Advice for 3rd Year Students

Fulfilling Module Work Requirements

All sociology students are required to submit work during the year in relation to each of the modules they take. The requirements for individual modules can be found in the outlines contained in the Book of Modules (link above) and on the module page on Canvas. This work is an integral part of the module concerned, and it is also an indispensable source of feedback for the student. **Please check the Book of Modules for full details.**

You are strongly advised to ensure that you fulfil all module work requirements, and that you do so in accordance with the deadlines as set. **Experience shows that students who neglect to fulfil year's work requirements either fail or get poor results.**

Guidance on Self-Directed Study

Every module requires much self-directed study. Here are some tips on how you might spend your study time:

- *Required reading:* Be sure to complete any required reading for the week it is assigned. If you neglect to do the reading or leave it for subsequent weeks, you may have difficulty catching up or understanding the remaining module material.
- *Further reading:* Make use of the further reading list that many module co-ordinators and lecturers provide. Using the reading list selectively will help you not only to deepen your understanding of key issues but will also allow you to make connections across readings and themes. This will improve your ability to write critically and analytically.
- *Keep a learning journal.* It's a good idea to take notes on the readings and what is covered in the module. Keep your ideas and reflections on module material in one place by starting a learning journal. Following the lecture, you should be looking over any relevant lecture notes and link these to the required reading. More importantly and in addition, you should be reading and taking notes from relevant texts cited in the reading list (or using material you have found yourself) so that you can extend your understanding of the subject.
- *Find your own sources:* No reading list can be exhaustive and there is always scope to use material gained from other sources. The most likely sources of relevant information, which you can locate for yourself, are to be found in the library, books and journals as well as newspapers, scholarly blog, podcasts and online magazines.
- *Essay preparation:* Greater depth of reading will better prepare you for essays. You should spend time not only reading texts and taking notes, but also planning the structure and development of your essay so that the final product is coherent, well-argued critical and analytical, and soundly organised. The notes you've taken on module material are an important resource to draw on too.

General Guidelines for Essays

Please note, Guidelines for SC3055, Research Project is contained in a separate handbook which you can find on the Canvas Area for SC3055.

Essays should be written in correct language, from spelling through syntax to punctuation. They should have an introduction, a development and a conclusion.

Recommended Essay Structure

The introduction should address the following:

- What it is the author intends to focus on (the problem or issue)
- What the author seeks to accomplish in the essay (the aim)
- The reason or reasons why the author considers this problem and their approach to addressing it to be important (the rationale);
- The contribution the author seeks to make by writing the text
- Offer wider context that the problem is related to

In the development of the essay the following should be covered:

- A review of literature relevant to the problem
- Application of social theory to show how the specific cases discussed are related to general dynamics and processes
- A series of paragraphs that constitute distinct points, well supported with referenced material from the literature, which all address the problem tackled in the essay.

The conclusion should include a summary of the following:

- An overall statement of the conclusion reached through the detailed discussion in the development
- A self-critical, reflexive assessment of the limitations and strengths of the work done
- Connecting the specifics of the problem or case looked at to a more general level, to show its overall relevance.

Such work should comply with the technical requirements expected of sociological work. They should contain:

- **A table of contents** specifying the structure and direction of argumentation of the text according to section and sub-section titles, as well as page numbers (for dissertations, final year projects, reports etc)
- **References in the text** to literature employed according to the reference system learned in First Year and consistently applied by the author
- **Footnotes or endnotes** where it was necessary to elaborate in more detail on a point, but where this would have interfered with the clarity or succinctness of the discussion in the main text.
- **A bibliography** or list of works referred to at the end of the text, including author's name and initials, title, place of publication, publisher and date of publication; and in the case of articles also the journal title, volume, and page numbers.

Referencing: The Department recommends the currently most widely used system, the Harvard system of referencing. We have a *Referencing Booklet* available on the Canvas module homepage, with detailed information on referencing available from the UCC Library:
<https://libguides.ucc.ie/academicintegrity/referencing>.

Academic Honesty & Integrity

Good academic practice guidelines

All work submitted by students of the Department of Sociology & Criminology, UCC is expected to represent good academic practice.

Students are advised to ensure they familiarize themselves with what constitutes academic integrity and good academic practice.

Both UCC and the Dept. of Sociology & Criminology (style sheet and handbook) - available on the department home page provide information about referencing, writing and academic misconduct.

<https://libguides.ucc.ie/academicintegrity/plagiarism>

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/sociology/undergraduate/current/>

Plagiarism, and the use of AI / ChatGPT

Plagiarism means passing off material that is not your own, as if it is your own. Directly copying from a source, and not citing that source, is the most obvious form of plagiarism. But submitting any work without full and proper acknowledgment of the sources you are using will bring that work within the scope of the UCC plagiarism policy. In the first instance, plagiarized work will receive a mark of zero, and the sanction will be recorded at the Student Records and Examinations Office (SREO). Cases of plagiarism may also be referred to, and handled directly by, SREO's exam compliance team.

The most reliable way to avoid plagiarism is always to ensure that you are fully and properly citing your sources, as well as being careful to use quotation marks when you are directly quoting. It is your own responsibility to make sure you know how to cite sources properly. Tutors will go over this in class, while the UCC library also provides a range of helpful guides:

<https://libguides.ucc.ie/academicintegrity/referencing>

Note that the use of ChatGPT, or any similar AI (artificial intelligence) tool, to generate work, also counts as plagiarism, and the same penalties will apply. This includes using such a tool to suggest a structure or to make sense of a question (in other words, you don't have to copy directly for it to count as plagiarism). The best thing is simply to not use these tools, unless directed to do so for a specific purpose: while we refer to large language models as 'artificial intelligence,' they are really just word-prediction machines, automatically generating text based on a calculation of probability about the next most plausible word in any given sequence. This looks (and is) impressive but it also produces text that is at best superficial, while demonstrating no real knowledge, and often being full of errors. Note that some departments at UCC, or elsewhere, may permit use of these tools, once such usage is properly

acknowledged. However, unless you are explicitly told otherwise for a specific assignment, this is not the case in Sociology & Criminology, where such usage is forbidden.

If you have any questions about plagiarism, including if you want non-judgmental pre-submission advice about whether something you're doing may unintentionally count as plagiarism, you can email Des Fitzgerald, the department plagiarism officer: desfitzgerald@ucc.ie

Penalties for plagiarism

Plagiarism: Please note that any work containing material that is generated by AI, transcribed from books, articles, or web sources (other than normal, properly acknowledged quotations) will be given a mark of 0.

The University has produced a plagiarism policy (<https://www.ucc.ie/en/exams/procedures-regulations/>) that clearly outlines what constitutes plagiarism and the procedure to be followed when a case of plagiarism is suspected. This document informs all Department policy in such instances and laid out as follows:

- In the case of suspected plagiarism in 'non-invigilated' assessment (e.g. essays/dissertations), the assignment in question will be, in the first instance, referred to the Head of School/Dept. or nominee. Consultation with the HOD, HOS or nominee must occur PRIOR to informing the student that there is a potential issue with their work.
- If the HOS, HOD or nominee deems that there is a case to answer, the case can be either passed to the Exams and Records office, or a penalty can be applied locally.
- The penalties include:
 - A reduced mark
 - A mark of zero
- If there is evidence of plagiarism (or other academic misconduct) the student will be given the opportunity to respond to the allegation via email or in person. If a meeting is held, students are entitled to have a witness (non-contributing) present.
- If a penalty is applied locally, the student can choose to accept this penalty, or refer their case to the Exams and Records office (see the University Plagiarism Policy).
- As a means of ensuring good academic practice, the Dept. of Sociology & Criminology reserves the right to use Turnitin software on all student submissions.

Submitting Work & Penalties for Late Submissions

The following are the regulations of the department in relation to the submission and return of module work:

All work submitted to meet module requirements must have a **signed** departmental **cover sheet** which can be downloaded from our website at:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/sociology/undergraduate/current/>

This should include:

- Student's name
- Student ID number
- Year of study, i.e. 1st, 2nd or 3rd
- Programme, e.g. BA, BSocSc, Visiting Student, Higher Diploma etc.
- Module title and code, e.g. Social Theory SC3001
- Type of degree, e.g. Joint Honours, Single Honours, Major, Minor, Language and Cultural Studies

This information is essential to ensure that the marks are assigned correctly. We regret that we are unable to accept work that does not contain this information.

All module work must be submitted by the stated deadlines. These deadlines will be set by individual lecturers and are available in the department's booklet of module outlines or will be communicated directly to students in class.

Penalties will be applied to late work. These are:

- 1-3 days late a **5%** deduction will be made from the assigned mark
- 4-7 days late a **10%** deduction will be made from the assigned mark
- 8-14 days late a **20%** deduction will be made from the assigned mark

Example: If a piece of work is given a mark of 60% by the lecturer and the work is 1- 3 days late, the mark recorded for examination purposes will be 57%. If the work is 4 - 7 days late, the recorded mark will be 54, and if 8 -14 days late, it will be 48.

We regret that we cannot accept work that is submitted 14 days or more after the submission deadline.

It is also strongly recommended that students keep copies of all the work that they submit, as the department may have to retain the originals for examination purposes.

Appendix 1. Module Requirements for Different Degree Types

Details on module requirements for different degree types is as follows (below).

Note: the most up to date information on modules and requirements is in the UCC Book of Modules/ University Calendar, and in the case of any discrepancy always take precedence.

<https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/basoc/>

3rd Year Single Honours (50 credits):

Students taking Single Honours Sociology are required to take 50 credits: SC3001 (5 credits) *plus* 45 credits from: SC2018, SC2034, SC3003, SC3004, SC3009, SC3012, SC3029, SC3046, SC3062, SC3066, SC3067 (5 credits per module), SC3058 (10 credits), SC3055 (15 credits).

3rd Year Major Honours (40 credits):

Students taking Major Honours Sociology are required to take 40 credits: SC3001 (5 credits), *plus* 35 credits from: SC2018, SC2034, SC3003, SC3004, SC3009, SC3012, SC3029, SC3046, SC3062, SC3066, SC3067 (5 credits per module), SC3058 (10 credits), SC3055 (15 credits).

3rd Year Joint Honours (30 credits):

Students taking Joint Honours Sociology are required to take 30 credits: SC3001 (5 credits), *plus* 25 credits from: SC2018, SC2034, SC3003, SC3004, SC3009, SC3012, SC3029, SC3046, SC3062, SC3066, SC3067 (5 credits per module), SC3058 (10 credits), SC3055 (15 credits).

3rd Year Major Honours (20 credits):

Students taking 20 credits of Sociology may select from the modules on offer, excluding SC3055 from: SC2018, SC2034, SC3001, SC3003, SC3004, SC3009, SC3012, SC3029, SC3046, SC3062, SC3066, SC3067 (5 credits per module), SC3058 (10 credits per module).

3rd Year Single Honours Minor:

Students taking Single Honours Sociology Minor are required to take 10 credits from the modules on offer, excluding SC3055.

Students who fail SC3055 should apply to the Department for guidance on how to fulfil this requirement for repeat examinations. Students who are repeating a module must contact the Department regarding course requirements for that module.