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VISION **130**  
Renew and Reimagine  
towards 2034

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRVSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



## ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT HOW SOCIETY WORKS?

Sociology is a critical social science that helps us navigate and understand the complexities of our ever-changing social world. Sociologists investigate a wide array of societal phenomena, including amongst others, gender, inequality, environmental issues, families, service delivery protests, and migration. Sociology equips students with versatile research techniques applicable to nearly any aspect of social life.

Our Department is committed to preparing graduates to become active, critically informed agents of change and reflection. Through rigorous training in sociology, students develop critical thinking skills to analyse and improve the functioning of society, preparing them to become future leaders, policymakers, and scholars.

Sociology modules are offered in various undergraduate UFS qualifications, such as Bachelor of Social Sciences (Extended and Mainstream) and Bachelor of Arts (Extended and Mainstream). Our modules are offered on both the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses.

Please read the following to get a feel for what our modules cover and see if they interest you enough to consider registering for them.

### In the first year, we offer two modules.

In your first semester, you will do **SOCI1514 – Introduction to Sociology (16 credits)**. Get ready to explore the fundamentals of the field! You'll unpack the sociological perspective and theories that shape our understanding of society, start to develop crucial social research skills and explore topics like culture, socialisation, social stratification, and the dynamics of race and ethnicity. It's the first step in understanding the world through a whole new lens!

In the second semester of your first year, you will do **SOCI1624 – Social Institutions and Social Change (16 credits)**. Explore how stability and change shape our world! You'll scrutinise key institutions like politics, education, family, and economics through a sociological lens. You will also examine the dynamic nature of society itself, giving you insight into how social change happens. It's all about understanding the forces shaping our lives and future!



## In the second year, we offer two modules.

During the first semester of your second year, you'll explore **SOCD2614 – Sociology of Developing Societies (16 credits)**. This module delves into the crucial role of development in societies, both globally and with a specific focus on South Africa. You'll examine various perspectives on how countries strive to achieve their development goals. Topics include defining development, exploring modernization theory, theories of underdevelopment, and the foundational principles that shape development strategies. It's an opportunity to grasp the complexities of societal progress in a globalized context and within the unique dynamics of South Africa.

During the second semester you will be taking **SOCP2624 The Population-Environment-Development Interface (16 credits)**. This module explores the intricate relationship between human society and the natural environment, focusing on how human activities can disrupt this delicate balance, leading to ecological crises. You'll explore pressing environmental issues, including population growth, migration patterns, and the social justice implications of environmental challenges. Gain insights into how these factors influence Southern Africa's development trajectory.

## In the third year, we offer two modules.

In the first semester of your third year, you'll take **SOCT3718 – Sociological Theory (32 credits)**. Building a strong foundation in social theory is essential in Sociology, and this module aims to deepen your understanding of its fundamental concepts. While you've encountered theory in your earlier studies, this course solidifies your grasp of these theoretical building blocks. You will apply these theories to real-life contexts, using a paradigmatic approach to explore various theories that seek to explain the social world. This module sets the stage for the second semester focus on research methodologies, connecting theoretical frameworks to their practical implications in research. It's an invaluable step in developing a comprehensive understanding of how theories shape our understanding of society and guide empirical investigation.

In the second semester of your third year, you'll finish off with **SOCR3728 – Social Research and Practice (32 credits)**. This module is designed to immerse you in

both the theoretical foundations and practical applications of empirical social research. You'll journey through each phase of the research process, gaining the skills needed to craft a research proposal or report that effectively communicates your findings. By the end of the course, you'll be proficient in critically reading and understanding research reports and capable of conducting your own basic social research projects. While the focus is primarily on quantitative research designs and methodologies, you'll also be introduced to essential aspects of qualitative research.

This comprehensive approach equips you with the tools to explore and analyse social phenomena from multiple angles, preparing you for meaningful contributions to the field of sociology.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students majoring in Sociology can use their knowledge to shape the world around them and build careers in diverse kinds of work. Sociology teaches transferable skills that are useful across most jobs, whether in the public sector (government), the private sector (companies), or the third sector (NGOs/Community Organisations). As more jobs are automated, being able to think – carefully and critically – will be increasingly important for human to work well. In particular, sociology helps successful graduates to:

- Understand the challenges and opportunities we face as a society and develop a passion for making our society better for all
- Understand the local, regional, continental, and global contexts that affect our society
- Develop clear writing and communication skills
- Work with communities and community organisations
- Help raise community awareness about critical social issues
- Plan, coordinate, and run community events, meetings, workshops, and engagement campaigns to encourage dialogue and sharing ideas



- Design and deliver training sessions to build community capacity
- Understand and respond to pressing societal problems, such as gender-based violence or inequality
- Undertake research to thoroughly and critically analyse social conditions
- Make evidence-based decisions by collecting, analysing, and reporting data
- Develop thoughtful policies that help meet people's needs
- Manage and implement projects, from concept to practice
- Monitor and evaluate whether projects are doing what they should be doing
- Work with a diversity of people, helping to build teams to solve challenges

Students majoring in sociology enter diverse fields and are well-prepared for various entry-level jobs that demand sociological skills. The applicability of sociological skills spans numerous sectors, making it impossible to list them all. The following are a few recent examples of jobs advertised requiring Sociological skills:

- Project Coordinator
- Research Assistant
- Researcher
- Community Development manager
- Administrative Officer
- Consultant
- Monitoring and evaluation coordinator
- Training officer
- Community liaison officer
- Community engagement officer
- Policy analyst
- Development practitioner

These roles highlight how a background in sociology can be applied across various sectors, contributing to understanding and improving social dynamics and outcomes. Sociologists can make a valuable contribution to any job that requires an interdisciplinary approach, where a variety of perspectives is needed.

We hope you're intrigued enough to consider registering for Sociology as a major, minor, or elective in your chosen degree program. It's a field that offers deep insights into society and human behaviour, enriching your academic journey with valuable perspectives.

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/humanities/departments-and-divisions/sociology-home>



BLOEMFONTEIN AND QWAQWA CAMPUSES