

Free University Brighton

**Freegree: Social Science
& Humanities**

Academic Year 2017/18



Level 1 Courses (for first year learners)

AUTUMN TERM

Inequalities in Education

Facilitator Nadia Edmond

7-9.30pm Monday 18 September 2017

We will start the term with an exploration of inequalities in education, including class, race, gender. The course will introduce theoretical perspectives for making sense of these inequalities including Althusser's theory of education as Ideological State Apparatus, Bourdieu's notions of capitals and Ranciere's critique.

The Divide Film Screening [open to the public]

7-9.30pm Thurs 28 September 2017

St George's Church, St George's Rd, Brighton BN2 1ED (Map Link

<http://bit.ly/2bzVUhz>)

The Divide tells the story of 7 individuals striving for a better life in the modern day US and UK - where the top 0.1% owns as much wealth as the bottom 90%. By plotting these tales together, we uncover how virtually every aspect of our lives is controlled by one factor: the size of the gap between rich and poor.

The film is inspired by the critically-acclaimed, best-selling book "The Spirit Level" by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett.

Crime, Inequality and Justice

Facilitator Carlie Goldsmith

Tuesday evenings 7-9.30pm on 3, 10, 17 & 24 October 2017

This course will provide students with the opportunity to discuss what it means to live in a society in which a range of social inequalities are prevalent. We will explore what inequality means, and the ways social inequalities are visible to us in contemporary British society. We will go on to explore how inequalities are expressed in patterns of crime, offending and criminal victimisation. We will discuss the impact of these inequalities on different social groups, and how they are connected to bigger questions of social class, 'race' and ethnicity.

Feminism, Gender & Sexuality

Facilitator Arianne Shahvisi

7-9.30pm Thursdays on 2 & 9 November 2017

These workshops explore issues of contemporary feminisms, gender and sexuality themes, in an inclusive and holistic context where diversity of social experiences are respected and understood. The workshops give an opportunity to learn about the fundamental importance of gender and sexuality as analytic categories but also to understand instances of oppression and exclusion. The latter is particularly important as gendered identities, norms, structures and institutions impact and shape our lives. Such experiences also intersect in complex ways with other aspects of our identities and social experiences such as ethnicity/race, class, sexual orientation, age and disability. This workshop will focus on essential critical perspectives emerging in contemporary social and cultural contexts on a local and global scale. A critical perspective will provide diverse knowledge on gender related themes as affecting both women and men in contemporary society and will strive for independent and collective discussions in an encouraging and supportive environment.

Equality and Human Rights

Facilitator Lucy Finchett-Maddock

7-9.30pm Wednesday 22 November 2017

This session will summarise the law of human rights within England and Wales, enshrined in the Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998, bringing 'convention rights' (from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)) into our domestic legislation. The relationship between the ECHR and HRA will be discussed, as well as summarising the relevant rights protected, the practical enforcement of the HRA within our law and the resultant protection of rights, as well as the debates surrounding repealing the HRA 1998.

Furthermore, equality and anti-discrimination legislation will be summarised, with specific reference to the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, and some of the discussions around formal and substantive models of equality and how these are expressed (or otherwise) through law.

Changes in Legal Aid

Facilitator Lucy Finchett-Maddock

7-9.30pm Wednesday 29 November 2017

This session will summarise the situation regarding state funded legal aid since the cuts brought in through the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) 2012, which came into force in 2013. The impact that these cuts have had on those in need of free legal advice, as well as the legal profession and legal education, will be discussed. The sessions will cover the philosophy of legal aid and free legal advice, the limited areas aid is now available in England and Wales, what was available previously, and some of the responses and critiques from the justice system, in turn. The impact of LASPO on obligations under national, regional and international human rights law and equality legislation regarding rights to a fair trial and access to justice will also be covered.

SPRING TERM

Thinking Sociologically and the Sociology of Thinking

Facilitator Lambros Fatsis

10-.30am - 1pm Saturdays on 20 & 27 January 2018

What does 'thinking sociologically' mean, how is it done, and how does it differ from other ways or modes of thinking? Is it useful, meaningful and possible even? If so, how so? If not, why not? Also, is there such a thing as 'a' or 'the' Sociology of Thinking? What does it entail, who does it include, and what is its purpose, aim, or audience? Intrigued by those questions, these two sessions on 'Thinking Sociologically and the Sociology of Thinking' examine the usefulness, relevance, merits, and shortcomings of sociological thought by defending it as a uniquely imaginative, playful, challenging, and pluralistic endeavour, rather than a simple perspective from which to view the social world around us. Both sessions are designed to join the dots, make links, but also highlight differences between Sociology and the other disciplines that feature in the FUB degree (Criminology, Philosophy, Economics, Politics, Psychology).

Introducing Critical and Public Sociology

Facilitator Lambros Fatsis

10.30am – 1pm Saturday 3 February, 2018

This topic will introduce sociology as a fundamentally “public”, and critical subject whose aim does not exhaust itself in studying the social world around us scientifically. Rather, its role is to also let our imaginations roam freely in order to create the very societies in which we wish to live. The aim of this session is to introduce ways in which to think sociologically about the world(s) we inhabit, discuss alternative conceptions of familiar social phenomena, and turn the critical outlook that sociology offers against itself, to examine whether it lives up to its scientific premises, and sociopolitical promises too.

Citizenship and Activism in the Modern World

Facilitator Robert Rhodes-Kubiak

Thursday evenings 7-9.30pm on 8, 15 & 22 February and 1 March 2018

This module will explore the changing nature and understandings of citizenship in recent years, and how the various manifestations of activism in the modern world are shaping and changing understandings of citizenship.

Beginning with an outline of the history of citizenship, we will explore how the notion of citizenship has moved from a normative, status-based concept which identified an individual's rights and responsibilities, towards a new ontological concept of citizenship in which each individual defines, crafts, challenges and experiences their own citizenship in a myriad of ways.

For many individuals nowadays, citizenship is less bound up with the nation-state and more bound up with ideas of participating, critically engaging, and shaping within very personal communities of belonging and identification. The EU referendum, the concept of European or global citizenship, criticisms of the idea of ‘Citizens of Nowhere’, and growing localised sentiments such as micro-nationalism all question the notion of what citizenship means and what it signifies in an globalising, interdependent world.

Activism – activity directed at fomenting change – lies at the axis of these debates, providing ways in which individuals contest and give voice to their own ideas and ideals. This module will explore these interlinked concepts and develop students' understandings of the potential of both activism and citizenship – and what it means to be an activist citizen – in the modern world.

Contemporary Theory in the Political Economy of Africa Development

Facilitator Luqman Temitayo Onikosi

Thursday evenings 7-9.30pm on 15, 22 & 29 March and 5 April 2018

This course will ask what are the forms of damage that a single story has done to the political economy of Africa development? Firstly we will explore 'whiteness' as a hegemonic* power structure that constrains equal and even redistribution of wealth, that should have offered people in the global south better life chances.

We will look at how racism functions as a controlling mechanism which maintains colonial relations as 'natural' occurrences: the colonizer internalises colonialism and its attendant ideologies, and colonized peoples in turn internalise the idea of their own inferiority and ultimately come to emulate their oppressors. Finally we will look at identity and power as shifting, temporary constructions.

**hegemonic - ruling or dominant in a political or social context*

SUMMER TERM

Introduction to Philosophy: Knowing and doing, problems and possibilities

Facilitator Matt Lee

Tuesday evenings 7-9.30pm on 8, 15, 22 & 29 May, 2018

This module aims to introduce the student to some of the central difficulties in 'epistemology' (knowing) and 'ethics' (doing) and presents a range of ways that philosophers have suggested such problems might be addressed. We will look at what a 'knowledge claim' is, ask what the difference is between 'knowledge' and 'opinion', investigate how we might decide what the right thing to do is and ask why people seem to act against their own interests. Why is it that knowing what is right often doesn't make people actually behave any differently? Where and how does knowledge make any difference to the actions we perform?

Students will learn basic tools for the critical analysis of epistemic and ethical claims. They will have a basic overview of key philosophical approaches to problems of knowledge and action and will have a basic understanding of the practices of rational argument.

Alternative Societies

Facilitators Luke Martell and Caroline Lucas MP

7-9.30pm Mondays 11, 18, 25 June and 2 July 2018 (plus one Thursday evening to be confirmed)

People often criticise the way society is, but that leads to the question 'what's the alternative?'. This module will explore alternatives to current types of society. It will look at alternatives such as communism, green society and alternative education. This will raise issues to do with utopianism, alternative economies and co-ops, society with less work and global society with open borders. The module will discuss alternatives that students themselves raise for discussion. Are societies that are alternatives to ours desirable and viable?

Latin America: Revolution, Repression and Social Change

Facilitators Mario Novelli and Glory Saavedra

10.30 – 1pm Saturdays 14, 21, 28 July and 4 August, 2018

This mini module will explore the geopolitics of Latin America, drawing out the tensions and contradictions that currently shape the regions politics.

Beginning with a broad overview of the geopolitics of Latin America and its relationship with the United States, we will then move on to discuss two very different case studies.

The first, an examination of the resurgences of a new Latin American Regionalism, and the tensions therein. The second, the case of Colombia, as an example of a very different type of development model, with a particular focus on US aid, human rights and dependent modes of development that are characteristic of other countries on the continent. The final session will provide a forum for debate on where Latin America is heading in future.

Level 2 Courses (for second year learners)

AUTUMN TERM

Global Social Policy

Facilitator Kepa Artaraz

7-9.30pm Tuesdays on 19, 26 September, 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 October and 7 November 2018.

The main aim of this module is to challenge views of social policy that are based only on the UK experience. It will introduce frameworks for the study of global aspects of social policy. These include an understanding of comparative frameworks of analysis and their limitations; a theoretical understanding of the process of globalisation and its effects on human welfare; an understanding of the roles of some of the main actors in global social policy.

Learners will be introduced to global aspects of social policy, including the ways in which cross-national theory and research can help us understand the new challenges of social policy. The module also explores different thematic case studies used to illustrate the substantive theoretical elements of the module developed during the early lectures. The module concentrates on social policy issues and potential responses, including their governance at all levels of the welfare mix, including the local, national, regional and global. The module applies theoretical frameworks and concepts from the social sciences, including social policy, politics, sociology, and area studies.

Feminism, Gender and Sexuality

Facilitator Arianne Shahvisi

Thursday evenings 7-9.30pm 23 and 29 November, and 7 December, 2017

These workshops build on those studied in level one, exploring deeper issues of contemporary feminisms, gender and sexuality themes, in an inclusive and holistic context where diversity of social experiences are respected and understood. A critical perspective will provide diverse knowledge on gender related themes as affecting both women and men in contemporary society and will strive for independent and collective discussions in an encouraging and supportive environment.

SPRING TERM

Creative and Critical Research Methods

Anastasia Christou and Kate Bloor

Saturday mornings 10am–1pm on 27 Jan, 3, 10, 17 & 24 Feb, 3 March 2018

In this module you will examine new /emerging ways of doing research - such as that provided by new technology/media and multi-methods- and develop a critical/reflective approach. You will explore approaches to research that challenge existing social theory paradigms and reveal other perspectives. You will go on to develop a basic understanding of philosophical and political underpinnings to research and how it is done, drawing on perspectives that reveal the power relations in society and (concurrently) within research.

Identity and the Body

Facilitator Elizabeth Vasileva

7-9.30pm Mondays on 12, 19 & 26 March and 9, 16 April 2018

This class will introduce some major sociological issues around (and about) the notion of the Body. We will examine the various social and cultural practices that determine the body, such as gender and sexuality, race and migration, citizenship, issues of 'belonging' and 'deviation'. The Body is a site of a lot of controversy, both social and political, and the focus of various practices of governing, which would lead us to discuss some ethical issues surrounding this concept. Finally, we will also look at how bodies intersect and live with each other and touch upon themes of collective movements.

SUMMER TERM

Critical Perspectives on Crime and Punishment

Facilitators Carlie Goldsmith and Suzanne Hyde

Thursday evenings 7-9.30pm 10, 17, 24 & 31 May and 7, 14, 21 & 28 June, 2018

In the first four weeks of this eight week module, students are introduced to a range of critical sociological and criminological theory that seek to explain macro level societal shifts over the last four decades, which have reshaped the world, changed our understanding and representation of marginal groups and our attitudes towards crime and punishment. The second four weeks of the module will focus on the English riots that took place in August 2011 and these events will be used as a case study to illustrate and illuminate such social and criminological changes and shifts, with particular reference to youth, race and social class.

Contemporary Theory in the Political Economy of Africa Development

Facilitator Luqman Temitayo Onikosi

Monday evenings 7-9.30pm 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 July 2018

This course will ask what are the forms of damage that a single story has done to the political economy of Africa development? Following on from the level 1 course we will look at issues of economic development and capital flight, the debt crisis, myths of foreign investment, the political economy of free market and free trade in Africa development.

Level 3 Courses (for third year learners)

AUTUMN TERM

Contemporary Theory in the Political Economy of Africa Development

Facilitator Luqman Temitayo Onikosi

Monday evenings 7-9.30pm on 4, 11 & 18, 25 September and 2 October 2017

This course will ask what are the forms of damage that a single story has done to the political economy of Africa development? Following on from the level 2 course we will look at the theory of Global Political Economy (GPE), GPE and Africa's role within it, Political Economy of Financial Globalisation and the Autonomy of the African States and The International Foundations of the Post War Order: Bretton Woods and US Hegemony.

Space, Identity and Social Issues

Facilitator Pollyanna Ruiz and others (to be confirmed)

7-9.30pm Thursdays on 12, 19 & 26 October, 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 November 2018

This third year module will explore the relationship between media, culture and society. It will be team taught by a number of academics from the School of Media, Film and Music at the University of Sussex and ask questions such as 'what is leisure and how is it dependent on Capitalism?', 'has the turn from a producer society to a consumer society changed the way in which we connect to our political lives as citizens?', and 'do social networks help or hinder the production of social and political change?'. Answering questions such as these is important because they enable us to better understand the dynamics which structure our everyday lives.

SPRING TERM

Classical Political Thought

Monday evenings 7-9.30pm on 22 & 29 January and 5, 12, 19 & 26 February, 2018

Facilitator Luke Collison

This module will cover some key thinkers through the ages such as Aristotle, Machiavelli, Lock, Hobbes, Rousseau, Kant, Bentham, Mill, and Wollstonecraft.

Modern Political Thought

Facilitator Luke Collison

Monday evenings 7-9.30pm on 12, 19 & 26 March and 9, 16 & 23 April 2018

This module will cover some of the more recent thinkers of our age such as Marx, Weber, Luxemburg, Gramsci, Arendt, Adorno, Foucault and Bookchin.

SUMMER TERM

Criminology and Critical Policing Studies

Facilitator Peter Squires

7-9.30pm Thursdays 10, 17, 24 & 31 May and 7, 14, 21 & 28 June, 2018

The Police are the gatekeepers to the criminal justice system and capable of deploying fundamental power and authority: not least the power to criminalise. While the British policing system stresses 'accountability', locality, minimum use of force and 'consent' in upholding law and order, controversial questions arise whenever these safeguards are tested. This module will critically, but constructively, explore the dilemmas arising in policing a democracy.

Psychology in the Real World

Facilitator Carl Walker

Thursday evenings 7-9.30pm on 5, 12, 19, & 26 July 2018

The focus of this module is mental health and wellbeing. It focuses on the ways in which psychologists can explore, understand, and challenge the mental distress associated with forms of political, economic and social oppression and marginalisation experienced by many in the UK.

Optional Extra Courses (for all students)

Writing into Meaning: Creative Strategies for Academic Writing

Facilitator Emily Danvers

12.30-4pm on Saturdays 21 October 2017, 13 January 2018 and 19 May 2018

Do you get stuck with knowing what it is you need to write or how to get started with writing? This half-day workshop looks at different creative strategies - from free-writing to clay modelling - to help you get started and stay focused on your writing and covers topics such as:

- Imagining yourself as a writer and writing yourself into the text
- Thinking about your readers and how this can be both inhibiting and encouraging
- How the process of writing brings about different meanings to the ideas we have
- How the writing process can be made more supportive and sociable

While the sessions are mostly focused on academic writing, it would still be helpful for those working on more creative or informal writing projects. We just ask that you come along with an idea or topic in mind, even if this is at its very early stages. We hope that you will leave the session with some writing that you have produced and some methods for thinking about writing more creatively!

Women: The Greatest Story Never Told

Facilitator Ali Ghanimi

10.30-1.30pm on Saturday 11 November 2018

It is the past which holds the clues to the subordinate position of women. The earlier age of industrial society, for example, can help us understand why women's work has been evaluated as worth less than men's. More importantly, as Sheila Rowbotham asserts, "if a woman's role can be shown to be socially constructed within a specific historical context, rather than natural and universal, it can be challenged and open to change." This half day workshop will begin by exploring women's position today and ask, has this always been the case?

Deconstructing Men & Masculinities: Theoretical and Empirical Insights into Identities and Sexualities

Facilitator Anastasia Christou

10.30am – 1.30pm Saturday 18 November 2017

This half day workshop will explore constructions, narrations, mediations and experiential representations of men and masculinities drawing on ethnographic research, media discourse, interdisciplinary academic accounts and historical analysis shaping public discourse about masculine identities and sexualities. The discussion will examine concepts and will connect academic theory with every day life issues in a wide-ranging exploration of masculine identities, past and present, in developing a holistic approach to understanding the contemporary challenges involved in the cultural critiques and redefinitions of masculinities. Concepts such as male femininity, metrosexualities, white privilege, hegemonic masculinity, transhumanism, liquid masculinities, masculinity in sports culture, masculinity crisis, misandry, residual patriarchy, laddism, etc. will be explored in bridging academic research with current global issues.

Brexit

Facilitator Mike Hall

7-9.30pm Tuesdays on 21 & 28 November and 5 & 12 December 2017

The Brexit module offers students an opportunity to explore some of the many aspects of this momentous and highly complex issue. We will construct the programme around your particular interests and the current state of your knowledge (or lack of it). Space will be left for consideration of the current issues and controversies that will inevitably emerge during the Brexit negotiations and legislation while the workshop is running.

Our broad approach in dealing with a concrete Brexit issue will be to gain an overview of the issue and what is thought to be at stake with it, noting and filling any gaps in our factual knowledge. This would probably be followed by a discussion of the arguments for and against any of the controversies involved in the issue, and, finally, outlines of the more abstract ideas and theories that help to illuminate the issue.

Sessions will not be lecture-based. Instead, they will involve student activities in small-groups, using materials provided by the tutor, followed by whole class discussions. Students will be able to submit work for assessment either as individuals,

pairs or small groups. The assessment assignments will be individually agreed between students and the tutor.

An Introduction to Social Research Methods

Facilitators Kate Bloor, Mike Hall, Bruno De Oliveira & Ali Ghanimi

7-9.30pm Tuesdays on 16, 23, 30 Jan, 6, 13, 20, 27 Feb and 6, 13 March 2018

The general aims of this module are to help you to develop the understanding, techniques, and skills necessary to design and conduct small-scale research projects, and to understand and evaluate social research done by other people.

At the end of the module, you should be able to do the following:

1. Understand some fundamentals of the qualitative and quantitative research methods used in professional social research, especially sample survey methodology
2. Understand the different stages of a qualitative and quantitative research project
3. Understand some systematic methods for collecting qualitative and quantitative information ('data')
4. Use appropriate methods to collect and analyse qualitative and quantitative data

The Political Economy of Global Finance – An Alternative Critique

Facilitator Mareike Beck

7-9.30pm Thursdays on 8, 15 & 22 Feb and 1 March 2018

The recent decades have seen a spectacular transformation of global finance. We have seen an unprecedented rise of finance's influence in our society, exemplified by the financial crises in 2007 and its on-going impacts on austerity politics. Yet, much of our understanding of the financial system is based on an abstract conception of finance and its power. Thus, the main aim of this course is to break down how finance works concretely in order to build a systematic understanding of the political and social foundations of global financial markets. Firstly, we will examine how finance is rooted in concrete politics, institutions and regulations. In the second half of the course, we will explore these questions more concretely, examining recent financial practices and innovations that govern our everyday lives in the age

of austerity. Ultimately, the course aims to promote an alternative and critical perspective on the constitution and dynamics of power within global (and national) financial markets and their role in society.

Community Work Skills

Facilitator Dhara Thompson

7-9.30pm Tuesdays on 20 & 27 March, 17 & 24 April and 1 May 2018

This short course will introduce participants to the principles and values of community work, whether paid or unpaid. Drawing on the work of Paolo Friere we will look at concepts of power, powerlessness and equality and relate them to work we are all involved in within our communities - of place, of identity or of interest. The sessions will be participatory and led by participants' experiences - whether you see yourself as a community worker, community activist or neither. We will look at the history of community work, clarifying what the term means and who has used it for what purposes. There will be a focus on practical techniques to work with and within groups, for example we could look at different approaches to tackling oppressive practises, or how to involve people more fully in decision making. Participants will be encouraged to keep a learning journal in which to record your own observations and reflections during the course. This could also include reflections that you observe in your own community or campaigning groups. Feedback will be given on any learning journals you wish to hand in each week. Open to anyone!

Human Rights and the Law

Facilitator Marie-Bénédicte Dembour

Monday evenings 7-9.30pm on 14 and 21 May 2018

This is a short, two part course on human rights and the law, following on from Lucy Finchett-Maddock's Level 1 sessions in the Autumn term. The first sessions will ask 'Does the European Court of Human Rights protect migrants?' the second will explore different perspectives of human rights and ask 'In which human rights school do you belong?'.

Social Research Methods in Action – Intermediate Level

Facilitators Kate Bloor, Mike Hall & Bruno De Oliveira

Tuesday evenings 7-9.30pm on 29 May, 5, 12, 19, 26 June 3, 10, 17 and 24 July 2018

The two intermediate modules of Social Research in Action build on the introductory modules. The first module will explore qualitative methods and methodologies, the second, quantitative methods and methodologies.

Both are designed to give you further practice in the tools and techniques of social research, and help you to deepen your understanding of the two main branches of social research, namely, quantitative and qualitative research.

In particular, the modules will build your understanding of particular research methods in detail, and will explore in more depth the principles and ideas underpinning the two approaches to social research – qualitative and quantitative. The two modules also follow the introductory modules in their approach to learning and teaching. In both of them your learning will be based on actually doing some research in small project groups.

While the intermediate modules do build on the introductory ones offered last year, this doesn't mean that you shouldn't take the intermediate ones because you missed the introductory modules. The intermediates are self-contained and stand alone.