Human, Social, and Political Science Tripos


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Website: http://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpful People</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Undergraduate HSPS Administrators</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict of Interest Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBRARIES</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIOLOGY and JOINT PART II B TRACKS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIOLOGY JOINT TRACKS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics and Sociology</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology and Social Anthropology</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology and Criminology</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology Dissertation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPORTANT: Penalties: Submission deadline/Word count/Plagiarism</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUIDANCE ON PLAGIARISM</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Constitutes Plagiarism</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Consequences of Plagiarism</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPERVISION IN SOCIOLOGY AND WORKLOAD</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEEDBACK</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIZES</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC STAFF IN SOCIOLOGY</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

This handbook complements the Part IIA Student Handbook, and is intended for Part II B HSPS students taking the Sociology stream, the Joint Sociology/Social Anthropology stream, or the Joint Sociology/Politics stream.

Helpful People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sociology Undergraduate Secretary</td>
<td>Paulina Baltoukou</td>
<td><a href="mailto:undergrad@sociology.cam.ac.uk">undergrad@sociology.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology Director of Undergraduate Education</td>
<td>Dr Ali Meghji</td>
<td><a href="mailto:am2059@cam.ac.uk">am2059@cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology Head of Department</td>
<td>Prof Hazem Kandil</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hk376@cam.ac.uk">hk376@cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology Department Sexual Harassment and</td>
<td>Department Administrator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:administrator@sociology.cam.ac.uk">administrator@sociology.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaints Representative</td>
<td>Lara Gisborne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also: [university website](https://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate) Breaking the silence - preventing harassment and sexual misconduct

Student Complaints Procedure

Where a student is dissatisfied with any provision, action or inaction by the University students are able to raise a complaint. Students are expected to initially raise a complaint with a suitable member of staff within the Sociology Department, in the first instance it is the department administrator administrator@sociology.cam.ac.uk. However, where the matter is serious or where students remain dissatisfied, a complaint can be raised with the central University. Complaints need to be raised in a timely way and within 28 days to ensure an effective remedy can be put in place. Find further information here: [www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/student-complaints](https://www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/student-complaints).

Other Undergraduate HSPS Administrators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soc Anth</td>
<td>Claudia Luna</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cl353@cam.ac.uk">cl353@cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLIS</td>
<td>Rosalie Vanderpant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ugradadmin@polis.cam.ac.uk">ugradadmin@polis.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Teaching</td>
<td>Hayley Grainge</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hab41@cam.ac.uk">hab41@cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conflict of Interest Policy

The University has a Conflict of Interest Policy that you can read here: [Conflict of Interest Policy | Governance and Compliance Division (cam.ac.uk)](https://www.governance.cam.ac.uk/conflict-of-interest-policy). The Department maintains a conflict of interest register and also asks for any conflicts of interest as a standing item on committee agendas.
Resources

Paper Guides

The paper guides can be found online on each departmental website for current students:

- Sociology undergraduate website;
- Polis undergraduate website; and
- Social Anthropology undergraduate website

Lecture List and Online University Time-Table

The Sociology Lecture-List is displayed on the information board in the Sociology Department.
The University Time-Table can be found on: https://www.timetable.cam.ac.uk/
and on each departmental website for current students:

- Sociology;
- Polis; and
- Social Anthropology

**IMPORTANT:** Students are informed of updates and cancellations via email. Ensure you are
on the relevant mailing-list.

Moodle Sites

You will find lecture **hand-outs**, and **past-exam** papers on the Moodle sites:

- Sociology Moodle site;
- Polis *for access to the POLIS Moodle site, register with ugadmin@polis.cam.ac.uk; and
- Social Anthropology Moodle site

**IMPORTANT:** Ensure you are given access to the relevant sites.

HSPS Track Options page

You should always submit your choices through the online registration in order to make sure
that you will be added to the correct mailing lists, Moodle sites etc.:

https://www.hsps.cam.ac.uk/track-options
LIBRARIES

In addition to your college library, the two main libraries for HSPS students are:

- **The Seeley Library**, on the Sidgwick Site, which offers study spaces and Sociology books. Email seeley@hist.cam.ac.uk with questions.
- **The Haddon Library**, on the Downing Site, which offers study spaces and academic skills classes. Email haddon@lib.cam.ac.uk with questions.

You can also find both libraries on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/HaddonLibrary](https://twitter.com/HaddonLibrary) and [https://twitter.com/TheSeeleyLib](https://twitter.com/TheSeeleyLib)

The [Cambridge Library Essentials](https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/about-the-library/cambridge-library-essentials) guide contains key information about Cambridge libraries such as about borrowing, searching the catalogue, accessing reading lists and accessibility issues.

For library updates and overdue/request notices, please check your @cam email regularly.

Finding your readings

- Search for books, ebooks and other resources using [iDiscover](https://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk)
- Find scanned chapters, location and availability of print books and links to electronic books and article through Reading Lists Online (RLO). Access to RLO is through your course Moodle page.
- Find articles in e-journals in [iDiscover](https://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk), via the option above the search box called ‘Articles and online resources’
- Access databases of scholarly articles using the [eResources portal](https://eresources.lib.cam.ac.uk), which is managed by the University Library
- Get started with Sociology research using the [Sociology LibGuide](https://libguides.lib.cam.ac.uk/sociology)

Other sources of information

For general guidance about being a student at Cambridge, see [CamGuides](https://www.camguides.org/)

Other Cambridge libraries of interest

- Your [college library](https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/libraries) often has many books on your reading lists. They also usually offer congenial spaces for studying.
- There are over 100 libraries at Cambridge. Find great places to study in Cambridge using [Spacefinder](https://spacefinder.lib.cam.ac.uk). You can work at and borrow from most Cambridge libraries (however, not from college libraries, except your own)
- You are automatically registered at the [Seeley](https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/libraries/seeley) and the [University Library](https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/libraries/uni-library), a world-renowned collection of books, archives and manuscripts. Search “All Libraries” in iDiscover to see which libraries hold your readings.
- The [Radzinowicz Library](https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/libraries/radzinowicz), Institute of Criminology, on the Sidgwick Site
For specialized geographical areas:

- Centre of African Studies Library
- Centre of South Asian Library
- Latin American Studies at the Seeley Library
- The Marshall Library, Faculty of Economics, Sidgwick Site
- The Experimental Psychology Library, Downing Site
- The History and Philosophy of Science Library, Free School Lane
SOCIOMETRY and JOINT PARTII B TRACKS

Restrictions and prerequisites do apply, for more information please see the https://www.hsps.cam.ac.uk/track-options

Sociology

You choose three papers from a range of subjects.

If you wish, you can offer a dissertation in place of one of these (provided that you don’t take PBS7, which is assessed by oral examination):

SOC 5 Statistics and Methods
SOC 6 Advanced Social Theory
SOC 7 Media, Culture and Society (*Cap of 45 students*)
SOC 8 Revolution, Empire and Exile
SOC 9 Global Capitalism (*Cap of 30 students*)
SOC 10 Gender
SOC 11 Racism, Race and Ethnicity (*Cap of 30 students*)
SOC 12 Empire, Colonialism, imperialism
SOC 13 Health, Medicine and Society (*Cap of 30 students*)
SOC 15 Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System (borrowed from the Law Faculty)

Your final paper can be in another sociology subject, one taken from another track: (POL13, POL17, SAN8-11) or from the Archaeology Tripos (B2 -4), or a subject offered in Psychology (PBS6-8)

Important: SOC7, SOC9, SOC11 and SOC13 are capped this year. If you would like to take any of these papers you need to make sure that you raise your interest by the 15 September through the online registration system. Once the paper is full, we will create a waiting list which will be a “first come, first serve” basis.

After the 15 September 2024 any spare places will be distributed equally to the borrowing departments.
SOCIOLOGY JOINT TRACKS

Politics and Sociology

Part IIB consists of four papers:

- Two papers chosen from POL 6, POL10-22;
- Two papers chosen from SOC5-15

You can offer a dissertation as your fourth paper (provided that you don’t take POL19 or POL21 which are assessed by long essays).

A description of Politics and International Studies papers can be found on the POLIS website: [Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS)](https://polis.cam.ac.uk)

Politics papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POL6</th>
<th>Statistics and Methods in Politics and International Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POL9</td>
<td>Conceptual issues and texts in politics and international relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL10</td>
<td>The History of Political Thought from 1700-1890</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL11</td>
<td>Political Philosophy and the History of Political Thought since 1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL12</td>
<td>Politics of Conflict and Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POL13</strong></td>
<td><strong>British Politics</strong> <em>(available to Single Sociology track)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL14</td>
<td>International Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL15</td>
<td>The Politics of Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL16</td>
<td>Politics of Global China</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>POL17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Politics and Religion</strong> <em>(available to Single Sociology track)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>POL18</td>
<td>Politics of the International Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL19</td>
<td>Themes and Issues in Politics and International Relations <em>(examined by two 5000-word essays)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL20</td>
<td>Politics of Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL21</td>
<td>Politics of the Future <em>(examined by two 5000-word essays)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL22</td>
<td>Politics and Public Policy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Sociology and Social Anthropology

Part IIB consists of four papers:

- Two papers chosen from SOC5 - SOC15;
- One Paper chosen from SAN5 (Ethical Life and the Anthropology of the Subject) and SAN6 (Power, Economy and Social Transformation) and one paper from SAN4-SAN6, SAN8-SAN15.

You can offer a dissertation as your fourth paper.

A description of Social Anthropology papers can be found on the Social Anthropology website: [http://www.socanth.cam.ac.uk/current-students/ug-part-two-b](http://www.socanth.cam.ac.uk/current-students/ug-part-two-b)

Social Anthropology papers:

SAN5 Ethical Life & the Anthropology of the Subject SAN6
Power, Economy & Social Transformation

Part II Options:

Paper SAN4 The Anthropology of an Ethnographic Area:

(available to Joint Soc/SAN track)

a) Africa  
b) South America  
c) Middle East  
d) South Asia

Paper SAN8 Environment, Development and Indigeneity
Paper SAN10 The Anthropology of Post-Socialist Societies
Paper SAN14 Anthropology of History, Memory and Time

Sociology and Criminology

Part IIB consists of four papers:

- Two papers chosen from SOC 5-15
- CRIM 4 (Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System) and CRIM 5 (Further Topics in Criminology)

You can offer a dissertation as your fourth paper.
Sociology Dissertation

A quarter of your final mark can be assessed from a 6,000-10,000-word dissertation.

Students wishing to do a dissertation approach a prospective supervisor and, once they have finalized a title, submit a dissertation title form (approved by their DOS) no later than Friday 18 October 2024.

If their research involves interviewing participants, they will also have to apply for Ethical Approval before they undertake any field-work; the ethics form is also downloadable from the sociology undergraduate part II Moodle site.

Dr Nomisha Kurian (nck28@cam.ac.uk) is in charge of Sociology dissertations, and will advise on supervisor’s choice, research methods and other issues.

Supervision of dissertations

- Students can expect to receive six supervisions
- Supervisors will read draft chapters once and a draft of the whole dissertation once, and provide written comments
- Supervisors will not read revised drafts
- Supervisors will advise on readings where they can, but students cannot expect supervisors to provide a comprehensive reading, which should reflect some independent initiative.
- Supervisions are expected to be given during term time

Layout

- Font: Use 12-point font and double-spacing for the text and 11-point font and single spacing for footnotes, lengthy inset quotations, notes, and bibliographies.
- Margins: Allow an ample margin on both sides of the page.
- Pagination: Print on one side only, and number the pages serially from 1.
- Abbreviations: At the first mention give the full name and its acronym or abbreviation in brackets. For dissertations, it is often useful to include a list of the acronyms and abbreviations you use.

**Word-count:** This includes all preliminary matter (e.g., title, acknowledgements), footnotes and endnotes, but not the bibliography. Students are expected to keep to the word-count as much as possible and penalties will be applied to over-limit work. All work should be proofread; examiners will penalise work with many grammatical or typographical errors.

**Unconventional format:** Dissertation’s candidates might be allowed to explore more unconventional models (diary, recordings...etc); however, approval by the DUGE will be granted on a case-by-case basis, and part of the submission should include a written argumentative component.
References and bibliographies

Some word processing programmes (e.g., Endnote for later versions of Microsoft Word) format references automatically from a bibliographical database in a variety of accepted conventions - these can be extremely useful, particularly if you update your database each time you read new material. Be consistent throughout in the convention you adopt (e.g., 'author-date' citations in the text, with a bibliography at the end of the work).

Make sure that your referencing is complete: for journal articles etc. the author, the title of the article, the name of the journal, the volume number, the year and the pages (and where page numbering starts with each issue, the issue number also); for books and book sections the editor(s) as well as the author(s), the title of the book, the place of publication, the publisher, and the year. Examiners often follow up a selection of references and will be irritated if they cannot find what they are looking for. If you use sources other than books or journal articles, make sure to say what these are. For sources obtained from the web etc., give the access address. Print the titles of books and journals in underlined normal type or italics; the titles of articles etc. in normal type inside quotation marks.

Submission Deadline: Friday 2 May 2025, by 12.00 noon

The dissertation should not bear any name. You can enter your exam blind grade number instead.

IMPORTANT: Penalties: Submission deadline/Word count/Plagiarism

LATE SUBMISSION

All work must be submitted by 12.00 noon on the advertised deadline. It must be received by 12.00 noon in order for the work to be considered as "submitted". Unless the student has been granted an extension, any work submitted after 12.00 noon will incur a penalty as follows:

- 1 point per hour or part thereof - up to 3 points (1 point per the first hour, another point for the second hour, and a third point for any further delay up to 12 noon the next day)
- Next 10 days or part of therefore - 3 points per day
- Any work submitted after 10 days is marked 0
- Electronic submission is mandatory
- Handing times are standardised as 12pm on the due date, with daily penalties applied every 24 hours from the due time.

Students who have good reason to request an extension (e.g., serious health problem, major family difficulty) should contact their College as soon as possible, as all requests should go via the EAMC (Exam Access and Mitigation Committee), following the usual procedure outlined on our website and using the correct application form.
WORD LIMIT

Students and supervisors should note that the word limit is **10,000 words** for Dissertations. **There is no leeway. Students exceeding the word limit will be penalised.** The word limit must be written on the coversheet for your dissertation or essay at submission and the Faculty will carry out checks. At the final Examiners’ meeting in June, the Examiners will discuss all overlength work and agree a penalty scale.

What is counted in the word limit will vary by subject (see below), so you should ensure that you have read the paper guide and are clear on what will be included. **Word limit rules apply to the subject of the paper you are submitting, not the subject track you are on.** As a general rule, any content that the Examiners must read in order to assess your work should be included in the main body and not in an appendix; overuse of appendices may be penalised if it impairs the understanding of your work.

**For all Soc assessed work,** the word limit will include all text except the bibliography and appendices; tables will be counted according to content. This means that the main text, captions, table of contents, footnotes, endnotes and all prefatory material at the start of the essay will be counted. Numerical tables, graphs or figures (for example, reports of statistical data) will be counted at a fixed rate of 150 words per table. Non-numerical tables, graphs or figures (for example, comparison tables showing attributes of various groups) will be counted per-word, and all content of the table will be counted.

**PLAGIARISM OR UNFAIR PRACTICE**

Concerns about plagiarism are taken very seriously and students should ensure that they are familiar with the Faculty’s guidance (available in your handbook and current student webpages). Cases of suspected unfair practice including plagiarism, potential data fabrication or breaches of ethical research practice will be investigated by the Senior Examiner of Part II on a case-by-case basis. Students should read the University's Statement on Plagiarism at:

[http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/students/statement.html](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/students/statement.html)
GUIDANCE ON PLAGIARISM

What follows is important guidance on plagiarism for all students in the Faculty of Human, Social, and Political Science.

Plagiarism is presenting as your own work words and thoughts that are not your own. It is a form of cheating and treated as such by the University’s ordinances. At the beginning of each academic year you are asked to sign a form saying that you have read this guidance document and understand what plagiarism is. If you are in any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, ask your graduate supervisor or Director of Studies to talk you through the issue. You should also ensure that you are familiar with the University’s formal Statement on Plagiarism, www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism.

Generative AI and your learning
Please see the open letter to students on the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences webpage here.

Where is the line?
GenAI is a fast-moving target, and it is increasingly being built into everyday tools we are already familiar with. Powerpoint can suggest nice ways of laying out your presentations, and Grammarly, formerly a grammar checking tool, has had an AI-makeover and now claims it can make your writing ‘more convincing’, amongst other things. So some students are raising questions about where the line is between inappropriate and appropriate use of these tools.

Let’s keep it simple: spell-checkers are fine. Tools which highlight poor grammar (like the old-style Word grammar checkers) are fine. Anything which actually writes or edits your writing for you is not. Under no circumstances should the text generated by such AI-assisted tools be presented as your own work.

Doing this in assessed work constitutes academic misconduct. While we are thinking actively about how we might in future engage with AI in diverse forms of teaching and assessment, zero-AI assessments (such as invigilated exams) will likely remain a core part of our assessment landscape going forward. Doing so in non-assessed work, such as supervision essays, is a waste of your own chance to learn. Don’t let genAI rob you of your chance to learn!

What Constitutes Plagiarism?

Plagiarism from published literature

Plagiarism is copying out, or paraphrasing someone else’s work (whether published or not), without acknowledgement in quotation marks (where directly copied) or a reference or citation. Avoiding plagiarism means getting into the habit of careful referencing. Citation styles and preferences can vary by subject within the Faculty; make sure you check with your supervisor or course organiser about what style best suits the type of work you are producing. Whatever the style, though, appropriate referencing is essential.


“Some of them, unwittingly, hastened the coming of the disaster, for they became exuberant imperialists, justifying Germany’s headlong rush into
world politics by a kind of cultural Darwinism. Once more, brute force was
gilded by idealistic invocations, by reference to Hegel and Fichte and the
German Idealist tradition. Similar rationalizations had been propagated in
Western countries; the difference, as Ludwig Dehio points out, was that
the ideals of the Western powers, of Spain during the Counter-
Reformation, of revolutionary France or liberal England, possessed a
universal appeal, whereas the "German mission" was parochial and
unpersuasive. The Germans were searching for the identity of their
mission, in a sense for their own identity; the Kaiser's theatrics were a
pathetic insistence of this search." (Fritz Stern, The failure of illiberalism:
theses on the political culture of modern Germany, pp. 16-17.)

Any part you directly quote should be attributed to Stern in the main body of your text,
identified by quotation marks.

It is plagiarism to write without a reference to Stern:

A few Germans inadvertently speeded up the impending disaster, for
they became enthusiastic imperialists, justifying Germany's dizzy charge
into world power politics by a form of cultural Darwinism. Again, violence
was covered by idealistic rhetoric, through the words of Hegel and
Fichte, and the German Idealist tradition.

This is because the source of the information is not made clear.
To write what follows is also plagiarism:

Some Germans unwittingly hastened the coming of the disaster, for they
became exuberant imperialists, justifying Germany's headlong rush into
world politics by a kind of cultural Darwinism. Once more, brute force was
gilded by idealistic invocations (Stern, 1974: 16-17).

Even though there is a reference to Stern here, this is plagiarism because substantially the
same sequences of words are used as in Stern's text: those words should be in quotation
marks.

In both of the passages above, it is not possible to distinguish between your words or
thoughts and those of Stern, and therefore this counts as plagiarism.

Your objective should be to show your reader where and how you have supported or
defended your work with that of others, or where you have carried someone else's work to a
new level. This is done by including references and quotation marks as appropriate:

Stern (1974) felt that some Germans “… unwittingly hastened the coming
of the disaster, for they became exuberant imperialists, justifying
Germany's headlong rush into world politics by a kind of cultural
Darwinism”. This legitimisation can be clearly seen in speeches given
by German orators throughout 1930-39.

It is also plagiarism to pass off an author's discussion of another author as your own. For
example, you must acknowledge Stern in taking his comment on Ludwig Dehio. Here, if you
want to use Stern's words you should write something like:

Stern (1974: 16-17) emphasises Ludwig Dehio's argument that “the ideals
of the Western powers, of Spain during the Counter-Reformation, of
revolutionary France or liberal England, possessed a universal appeal,
whereas the 'German mission' was parochial and unpersuasive".
It is plagiarism to write the following without acknowledging Stern:

Ludwig Dehio argued that the difference Germany and Western countries was that the ideals of the Western powers, of Spain during the Counter-Reformation, of revolutionary France or liberal England, possessed a universal appeal, whereas the “German mission” was parochial and unpersuasive.

Plagiarism from the Internet

Buying essays from Internet sites and passing them off as your own is plagiarism. There are no grey lines with this kind of plagiarism. It always constitutes a deliberate attempt to deceive and shows a wilful disregard for the point of a university education.

Downloading material from the Internet and incorporating it into essays without acknowledgement also constitutes plagiarism. Internet material should be treated like published sources and referenced accordingly.

Plagiarism from other students’ essays

Submitting an essay written by another student is plagiarism and will always be treated as a deliberate attempt to deceive. This is the case whether the other student is at this University or another, whether the student is still studying or not, and whether he or she has given consent to you doing so or not. Taking passages from another student’s essay is also plagiarism.

In most courses, it is also plagiarism to submit for examination any work or part of any work which you have already had examined elsewhere, even if this was in another University or for another degree.

Collusion

Submitting parts of an essay, dissertation, or project work completed jointly with another student, without acknowledgement or if joint work has not been permitted, is collusion and is considered a form of plagiarism. When submitting assessed work, each student will be asked to declare whether or not s/he has received substantial help from another student or supervisor. This will include, but is not limited to, rewriting or rephrasing large sections of the work. Each piece of work is expected to be the original, independent work of the student, and so if this is not the case it must be declared at the beginning of the assessment process.

Proofreading, reading drafts, and suggesting general improvements are not collusion and students are encouraged to obtain a third party’s view on their essay(s). However, as an example, if a supervisor or another student carried out detailed redrafting of the entire conclusion section of an essay, this would be considered collusion.

Some projects may benefit from joint working. In this case, however, the final project carried out by each student should be original and should not overlap significantly with one another. Students considering working together should always discuss the matter with their Supervisors and/or Directors of Studies before beginning the project. This type of joint work must always be declared by both students when the work is submitted.
Self-Plagiarism for Soc9 or Soc12 essays

Students on SOC 9 and SOC 12 are being assessed by a 50/50 mix of exam and coursework.

Your coursework must be an original piece of work and that general rule includes self-plagiarism, i.e. you cannot submit the same piece of work (or portions of it) for assessment more than once. In practical terms, this means your coursework assignment for SOC 9 and/or SOC 12 should not overlap with either your dissertation, or other coursework that you are being formally assessed on. Further, your exam answers should also avoid duplication of your coursework. If you have any queries regarding this matter, then please contact the course organiser for your paper. See university guidance on self-plagiarism: https://www.plagiarism.admin.cam.ac.uk/definition

“Self-plagiarism: using the Registered Student's own ideas, words, data or other material produced by them and submitted for formal assessment at this University or another institution, or for publication elsewhere, without acknowledgement, unless expressly permitted by the assessment”

https://www.plagiarism.admin.cam.ac.uk/what-academic-misconduct/plagiarism-faqs

“You cannot re-use work that has already been submitted for assessment - either at Cambridge or elsewhere - as part of another assessment, unless this has been explicitly allowed as part of your course. It is natural for material used in an earlier part of your studies to be built upon at a later date, but re-using the same essay or parts of an essay is not permitted on most courses. If you have not been given explicit permission to use your previously assessed or published work and if it is not cited correctly then this is academic misconduct and it could result in significant academic penalties.”

Authenticity of data

Some dissertations or project work may focus on analysing and drawing conclusions from a set of data. The integrity of data collection is paramount and students of any level are expected to uphold good research practice. Falsifying, or attempting to falsify, data will be treated as fraud (a form of plagiarism) and will be investigated (see The consequences of plagiarism below).

Supervisors of dissertations or projects are encouraged to carry out spot-checks on data gathered online and via traditional methods, and to seek assistance from computing staff in interpreting the results of these spot checks. Supervisors who have concerns regarding anomalous results should in the first instance discuss these with the student. If they are unsatisfied, they should contact the Chair or Senior Examiner to discuss. In this instance, supervisors have the right to stop the collection of data or to suspend the student’s access to a shared dataset, until the concerns can be reviewed more fully with both student and supervisor. This will be done in as timely a manner as possible so as not to impede the progress of the project or dissertation.
The Consequences of Plagiarism

Assessed work

A supervisor or examiner with concerns about potential plagiarism in work for formal assessment, whether or not the work has yet been submitted, will contact the Chair or Senior Examiner, who will liaise with the University Proctors. This will lead to an investigative meeting with the student. If the Proctor believes that there is a case to answer, s/he will then inform the University Advocate who can take the student before the University’s Court of Discipline. The Court of Discipline has the power to deprive any student found guilty of plagiarism of membership of the University, and to strip them of any degrees awarded by it. A case may be made irrespective of the student’s intent to deceive.

Supervision essays

Any supervisor who finds evidence of plagiarism in a supervision essay will contact the student’s Director of Studies. The College then has the discretion to take disciplinary action. Supervisors can refuse to supervise any student whom they have found plagiarising in an essay.

Use of originality checking software

The University subscribes to a service named ‘Turnitin’ that provides an electronic means of checking student work against a very large database of material from the internet, published sources and other student essays. This service also helps to protect the work submitted by students from future plagiarism and thereby maintain the integrity of any qualifications you are awarded by the University.

Work will be submitted to Turnitin, where it will be stored electronically in a database. Turnitin will produce an originality report showing whether any strings of words not in quotation marks are contained in other items in its database. The originality report will then be used to inform judgements about whether or not plagiarism has occurred. The copyright of the material remains entirely with the author, and no personal data will be uploaded with the work.

SUPERVISION IN SOCIOLOGY AND WORKLOAD

The following guidelines have been set up by the Sociology Undergraduate Education Committee regarding supervisions:

- Students should expect to receive 6 to 8 supervisions for each paper. Students will be expected to produce a minimum of 4 essays instead of being required to write 6 essays. While still holding the stipulated 6 supervisions, individual supervisors can decide to use some supervision sessions to read and discuss an article, ask students to present on a topic, or find other ways to address the topic in ways that are stimulating and provide a learning experience for students.
- Supervisions should not start later than week 3 of Michaelmas term, and should be organised in week 0.
- Queries and concerns relating to supervisions should be addressed by students, in the first instance to their Director of Studies; secondly to the Course Organiser; thirdly to the Director of Sociology Undergraduate Education: Dr. Ali Meghji.

Students should not be expected to work more than 46 hours/week during term time for lectures and supervisions.
FEEDBACK

Your chance to put forward your opinions on the papers you take!

For Sociology Papers, student feedback is collected via online anonymous questionnaires circulated at various points in the academic year. It is crucial that you complete them and give feedback on your papers.

Course organisers take students’ concerns and suggestions into consideration each year when preparing their paper outlines and selecting supervisors for the year. So please remember to complete the questionnaire.

PRIZES

Part IIA and Part IIB Polity Press Prize for best sociology performance

Each year, once examination results are published, the candidates in the sociology stream who achieve the best overall average and an overall first in Part IIA and Part IIB are awarded the Polity Press Prize: £100.00 worth of books to be chosen from Polity Press publications.

Winifred Georgina Holgate-Pollard Memorial Prizes

Instituted in 2016, this fund is for the award of prizes in recognition of the most outstanding results in any parts of Cambridge Tripos.

CUQM SOC5 Prize

The Soc 5 prize is given to the student with the highest mark in the final Soc 5 examination: The winner receives a voucher to the value of £50.00 from Heffers bookshop and £50.00 worth of books from SAGE publishers.

CQMC (Cambridge Quantitative Methods Centre) Quantitative Dissertation Prize

Prize for the best undergraduate dissertation that uses quantitative methods. It is open to students from all departments involved with CUQM, and is sponsored by Sage publications: £100.00 worth of Sage vouchers.
ACADEMIC STAFF IN SOCIOLOGY

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Researchers

https://research.sociology.cam.ac.uk/profiles/postdoctoral-and-research-assistants

Supervision Co-ordinator & Study Skills Sessions

TBC in September 2024. Details will be posted on Moodle
Course: Sociology Part II | Moodle (cam.ac.uk)