

# A Guide to HSPS Sociology Part IIB Papers 2016-2017

Information on Sociology papers can be found on the Sociology website:  
<http://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates/current-undergraduates/part-iib>

**Paper choices due on 1 June 2016.**

## Part IIB 2015-2016: Paper Titles Available

### Sociology

Soc 5	Statistics and Methods
Soc 6	Advanced Social Theory
Soc 7	Media, Culture and Society
Soc 8	Revolution, War and Militarism
Soc 9	Modern Capitalism
Soc 10	Gender
Soc 11	Racism, Race and Ethnicity
Soc 12	Modern Britain
Soc 13	Health, Medicine and Society
Soc 14	The Sociology of Education
Soc 15	Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System

**Dissertation** 6,000-10,000 words on a topic chosen by the student.

### Other HSPS and PBS subjects:

#### Archaeology:

- ARC8. Archaeological science I
- ARC9. Archaeological science II
- ARC10/BAN3. Human Evolution and Palaeolithic Archaeology
- ARC11/BAN9. Advanced Human Evolution
- ARC12. European prehistory
- ARC14. Aegean prehistory (*Paper D1 of the Classical Tripos*)
- ARC16. The poetics of classical art (*Paper D3 of the Classical Tripos*)
- ARC17. Roman cities (*Paper D4 of the Classical Tripos*)
- ARC18. Society and Settlement in Ancient Egypt
- ARC20. Archaeology and Religion in Ancient Egypt.
- ARC22. Mesopotamian Archaeology I: Prehistory and early states
- ARC25. Mesopotamian culture II: Religion and Scholarship
- ARC26. The North Sea in the Early Middle Ages
- ARC29. Ancient India I: The Indus civilization and beyond
- ARC32. The archaeology of Mesoamerica and North America
- ARC33. The archaeology of Africa

#### Biological Anthropology papers:

- BAN2. A subject in biological anthropology I: Behavioural Ecology and Adaptation
- BAN3/ARC10: A subject in biological anthropology II: Human Evolution and Palaeolithic Archaeology
- BAN4. A subject in biological anthropology III: Theory and Practice in Biological Anthropology
- BAN6: A subject in biological anthropology IV: Evolution within our Species
- BAN7: A subject in biological anthropology V: Culture and Behaviour
- BAN8: A subject in biological anthropology VI: Health and Disease
- BAN9/ARC11: A subject in biological anthropology VII: Advanced Human Evolution

### Social Anthropology papers:

- SAN5. Advanced Social Anthropology I: Thought, belief, and ethics
- SAN6. Advanced Social Anthropology II: Political economy and social transformation
- SAN7. The anthropology of an ethnographic area
  - (a) Europe
  - (b) Pacific
  - (c) South Asia
  - (d) Inner Asia
- SAN8. A special subject in social anthropology I: Anthropology and Development
- SAN10. A special subject in social anthropology III: The anthropology of post-socialist societies
- SAN11 Anthropology of media and visual culture

### Politics and International Studies papers:

- POL13. Politics of Europe
- POL14. The politics of Asia

### Psychology papers:

- PBS 8: Development and Psychopathology
- PBS 9: Psychology and Social Issues
- PBS 10: Gender Development
- PBS 11: The Family

## Paper combinations

### Paper choice regulations for Part IIB SOCIOLOGY stream

- (i) one paper chosen from SOC6–13;
- (ii) two further papers chosen from SOC6–15, one of which may be substituted by a **dissertation** on a subject approved by the Head of the Department of Sociology,
- (iii) one paper chosen from ARC8-33, BAN2–4, BAN6–9, POL13–14, SAN8-13, Papers PBS 8–11 of the Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Tripos or a further paper chosen from SOC6–15.

(Note: Paper ARC9 can only be taken if a candidate has taken Paper ARC8 at Part IIA ; ARC10 & BAN3 ARE ONE AND THE SAME PAPER; ARC11 & BAN 9 ARE ONE AND THE SAME PAPER; Papers POL13–14 can only be taken if POL3 or POL4 was taken at Part IIA )

### Paper choice regulations for Part IIB SOC/SOC ANTH joint stream

- (i) two papers chosen from SOC5–15;
- (ii) one paper chosen from SAN5 and SAN6, and one paper chosen from SAN5–SAN13:
- (iii) a candidate may substitute for one paper a **dissertation** on a subject approved by the Head of the Department of Sociology,

(Note: Paper SAN7 cannot be taken unless the candidate is also taking SAN5 or SAN6)

### Paper choice regulations for Part IIB POL/SOC joint stream

- (i) two papers chosen from POL6, POL10–19;
- (ii) two papers chosen from SOC5–15;
- (iii) a candidate may substitute for one paper a **dissertation** on a subject approved by the Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies.

(Note: Paper POL10 cannot be taken if POL8 was taken in Part IIA; Paper SOC5 cannot be taken if a candidate is also taking POL6)

**Important:** Students will have chosen a stream in their second year. They are **not permitted to switch tracks between Part IIA and Part IIB** unless they switch from a Joint to a Single track (for example Soc/Soc Anth part IIA to Sociology part IIB)

## Sociology Paper Descriptions

(Note: All these papers will be assessed by a 3 hour-examination only)

### *Soc 5: Statistics and Methods*

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the Education Tripos.*

In this course students will learn about a range of quantitative and qualitative methods and how they may be applied to explore issues in social science. Students will have the opportunity to apply new skills and knowledge in lab sessions, exploring real-life data. A wide range of statistical methods for data analysis will be covered, from simple descriptive statistics through to multivariate regression, logistic models and factor analysis. The course will also cover survey design, sampling methods, techniques in interviewing, and the principles of ethnography. At the end of the course students will:

1. Be aware of the different approaches to carrying out empirical research and the epistemological backgrounds that inform the approaches
2. Be able to read and understand empirical research published in books and journal articles
3. Know how to perform basic statistical analysis using SPSS software, and to interpret findings correctly
4. Have a solid foundation in basic methods and statistics, which will enable progression to more advanced courses, if desired

The focus of this course will be on research methods as practical tools to address real-life questions relevant to sociologists and social science. No prior expertise in mathematics or statistics is necessary. The skills and knowledge gained from studying on this course will be of benefit to students embarking on a substantial research project such as a dissertation, and will be useful for those interested in a career involving use, and interpretation, of data.

### *Soc6: A subject in sociology I*

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2016-17, it will be **Advanced Social Theory**. This course offers students the opportunity to pursue their interests in contemporary social theory at an advanced level. The aim of the course is to encourage students to use social theory in order to think creatively, constructively and critically about the ways in which the social and political world is changing today. The course takes for granted an intermediate level of knowledge of classical and contemporary social theory; students are expected to develop and extend their knowledge of key thinkers by reading their work in greater depth during this course. However, the course itself is organized

around problems and issues, not around thinkers and texts. The emphasis is on encouraging students to practise social theory by thinking theoretically about particular problems and issues. The course seeks to bring social theory alive by getting students to draw on the resources of social theory in order to understand the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and how it is changing.

### ***Soc7: A subject in sociology II***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the PBS Tripos.*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2016-17, it will be **Media, Culture and Society**. This paper focuses on the sociological study of media and of cultural and symbolic forms, ranging from youth subcultures to media power and communications media, including television, the press and the internet. The precise topics and scope of the paper vary each year, but may include the political economy of media and culture; the study of media and cultural institutions; online privacy and surveillance; journalism and news; audience studies and the role of ethnography, identity and representation in relation to culture and media; theories of the public sphere and of cultural citizenship; the changing nature of political communications; theory and analysis of digital media and the internet and their implications for social and political life. The work of theorists such as Adorno, Benjamin, Habermas, Bourdieu, Barthes, Baudrillard, McLuhan, Williams, Becker, Hebdige, Goffman and Castells is discussed in relation to the substantive themes.

### ***Soc8: A subject in sociology III***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks*

In 2016-17, it will be **Revolution, War and Militarism**.

Revolutions are often accompanied by war, and cast a long shadow over a country's civil-military relations. This paper adopts a holistic approach to these three interrelated phenomena: revolution, war, and militarism. After surveying the relevant literature, three historical cases are examined: (1) America, from the War of Independence and Civil War through the two world wars and the Cold War, to the current War on Terror; (2) France, from the Great Revolution and Napoleonic wars through the rebellious century to the present day; and (3) Iran, covering the Pahlavi dynasty, the Iranian Revolution, and the Islamic Republic that followed. The objective of these extended histories is to uncover the causes and outcomes of revolution, and the role of war in regime change.

### ***Soc9: A subject in sociology IV***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the Economics Tripos.*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2016-17, it will be **Modern Capitalism**.

These lectures seek to develop an understanding both of capitalism in general - its fundamental structure and functioning - and of its national varieties. Last, the global extension of capitalism receives consideration. The course of lectures covers three main areas. The first examines general theories of the structure of capitalism in both the classical and modern literature; its historical development and fundamental institutions, such as the firm, the market etc. Second, some of the major capitalist economies are examined in detail, particularly the USA and Japan. Third, two important related issues in the development and change of capitalist economies are examined: the question of globalization and 'varieties of capitalism'; and the transition to capitalism in post-communist societies.

### ***Soc10: A subject in sociology V***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks*

In 2016-17, it will be **Gender**. This 20-week Part Two paper introduces key theorists, concepts and topics in the sociology of gender and contemporary feminist theory.

Lectures outline the feminist analysis of sex, gender, the sexual division of labour, and the gendered economies of production and reproduction accounting for unequal pay, the feminisation of housework and the family wage. The paper includes lectures on masculinities, new reproductive technologies, affect and embodiment, international feminism, and trans/queer theory. The paper is offered in a lecture/seminar format and a key text (or texts) are required reading which students are expected to prepare in advance.

### ***Soc11: A subject in sociology VI***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the PBS Tripos.*

In 2016-17, it will be **Racism, Race and Ethnicity**.

This course explores the emergence of modern notions of race and ethnicity, contemporary forms of racism, processes of racialisation, and the social and political forces that have shaped them. Key questions will include: How are racial ideas conceptualized and justified through a variety of biological, social and cultural discourses? How did race and ethnicity come to be defined and embedded in the context of colonial and post-colonial rule? What are the, often complex, relations between ideas of race, the production of difference and identity, and the pervasiveness of social exclusion? Why does race remain such a powerful determinant of individual and collective identities? What is the specificity of ethnicity in contemporary society? Why and how does race and ethnicity matter?

### ***Soc12: A subject in sociology VII***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks; and to students in the Economics Tripos.*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2016-17, it will be **Modern Britain**.

An examination of the political, economic, and social forces underpinning the trajectory and framing the boundaries of modern British society. Lecture streams will include: (1) the political and economic development of modern Britain; (2) nationalism, religion, and ethnicity in modern Britain; (3) the politics and economics of Post-WWII Britain; (4) family and social change in contemporary Britain; and (5) class and status inequalities in contemporary Britain.

### ***Soc13: A subject in sociology VIII***

*Offered to: students in HSPS single tracks, and HSPS Joint Soc/SocAnth and Pol/Soc tracks; and to Students in the BBS Tripos*

A prescribed paper in sociology. In 2016-17, it will be a paper on **Health, Medicine and Society**. This paper provides students with a critical survey of principal themes and debates in contemporary medical sociology. It explores the major social causes of health and illness in modern societies with special reference to such factors as social class, gender, ethnicity, and age; provides students with a sociological grasp of the issues and problems associated with chronic illness; investigates a variety of key topics in the sociology of mental health; and, finally, develops a sociological analysis of the major organizational, professional, and technological components of medical institutions and medical practice in contemporary society. The paper also explores new methods of health care delivery with an eye to understanding their roles in either fostering or minimising social inequalities pertaining to health and illness. In addition to these substantive topics, the paper also examines cutting edge theoretical approaches to the study of health and illness in society, including: social constructionism, feminist theory, the sociology of the body, the sociology of science, and phenomenology. In short, the paper explores a wide range of both substantive and theoretical issues pertaining to the nature and distribution of health and illness in modern societies.

### ***Soc14: Education (Paper 3 in Part II of the Education Tripos)***

In 2015-16, it was **The Sociology of Education**. This paper provides students with a comprehensive study of education in contemporary Britain through two topics: inequality in post-war Britain, and social exclusion and education. The first topic examines the role of education in post-war British society, covering a range of classic and influential texts from sociological and educational literature. It examines the social and political contexts of educational change, particularly relating to changes in the family and work, as well as to issues of race, gender, class and youth. The second topic explores in depth the phenomenon of social exclusion and its implications for education in contemporary Britain. The topic puts particular emphasis on the interplay between social and educational research, the application of social policy, and the role of the school in the implementation of policy. Through these two topics,

the paper explores the relationship between sociology of education and educational politics, policy and public debate to offer an informed understanding of developments in sociological theory in contemporary Britain. Please note the content of the Education paper may change in 2016-17.

***Soc15: Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System (Paper 23 of the Law Tripos)***

The Paper aims to give students an informed and critical understanding of key issues in Law, Criminal Justice and Penal Policy in England and Wales (with reference to other countries where relevant). It does so in five ways. Firstly, by helping student to read the evidence for patterns of crime and for pathways into and out of offending in the context of i) fads, fashions and political ideas in criminal justice, ii) our knowledge of individual, family and situational risk factors, and iii) offender rehabilitation and desistance from crime. Secondly, by looking at the principles of punishment and at empirical evidence for the effectiveness of different crime reduction strategies. Thirdly, by considering the legal framework of sentencing and the theoretical and practical dilemmas facing judges and magistrates. Fourthly by examining some of the challenges faced by the criminal justice and penal system in dealing with specific groups of offenders such as adolescents, women, and those who are regarded as 'dangerous'. Finally, there is consideration of community penalties, prisons and parole, and broader questions of gender, equality and fairness in contemporary criminal justice.

***Sociology Dissertation***

Students may offer a dissertation of between 6,000 and 10,000 words in place of a paper; they choose a topic and approach a supervisor of their choice. For many students the opportunity to study a topic of their choosing in depth is the most rewarding part of the Tripos. Students are advised to start considering a topic and supervisor for their dissertation before the end of their second year; Directors of Studies can help with these decisions. Many students do fieldwork for their dissertations over the summer vacation before the start of the third year. Titles should be submitted as soon as possible, but not later than the second week of Michaelmas term, and must be approved by the Head of the Sociology department. Before undertaking fieldwork students will need to submit a research ethics and risk assessment form, available from the website. In addition to individual supervision, classes will be provided to assist students with the analysis of data. The dissertation is submitted in the first week of Easter term.

Sample dissertations from previous years can be consulted in the Sociology Office, Free School Lane.

## **Administrators**

If you have any queries about a particular subject, or need to notify us of any changes, please contact the relevant Administrator:

Archaeology:	undergraduate-secretary@arch.cam.ac.uk
Biological Anthropology:	Erica Pramauro, emp47@cam.ac.uk
Politics & IR:	Charlotte Moss, <a href="mailto:cm748@cam.ac.uk">cm748@cam.ac.uk</a>
Social Anthropology:	Dorothy Searle, dcs43@cam.ac.uk
Sociology:	Odette Rogers, <a href="mailto:ohmr3@cam.ac.uk">ohmr3@cam.ac.uk</a>
Psychology	Sarah Dunk, <a href="mailto:sabd3@cam.ac.uk">sabd3@cam.ac.uk</a>

Or you may contact the Faculty Teaching Administrator, Barbora Sajfirtova, [bs481@cam.ac.uk](mailto:bs481@cam.ac.uk)

## **Option Sessions for other HSPS Departments:**

Archaeology	- Wednesday 27 April, 2 pm, West Building Seminar Room
POLIS	- Friday 6 May, 1 pm, Alison Richards Building, SG1 & SG2
BioAnth	- Friday 29 April, 2 pm, Henry Wellcome Building, Seminar Room
SocAnth	- Thursday 28 April, 12.00 pm, Social Anthropology Seminar Room