

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2021

Sociology 321 (SOC 321)

Qualification Undergraduate

Faculty [Faculty of Humanities](#)

Module credits 30.00

NQF Level 07

Programmes [BTRP](#)

[BA](#)

[BA Law](#)

[BPolSci International Studies](#)

[BPolSci Political Studies](#)

[BSocSci Industrial Sociology and Labour Studies](#)

[BSW](#)

Prerequisites SOC 210(GS) or SOC 211(GS) and SOC 220(GS) or SOC 221(GS)

Contact time 1 tutorial per week, 3 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Sociology

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

Thinking methodologically

This module sets out to introduce students to 'doing research'. In this respect the assumptions and processes underpinning methodological choices in sociological research are considered in order to think about foundations of research, about how knowledge claims are made, how science is conceptualised, what role theory plays, as well as how values and ethics shape the politics of research. In addition to these foundational questions, a broad introduction to methods used in social research is provided by considering both the theoretical dimensions and practical application of various research tools. The purpose of the module is to equip students with the necessary competence to, describe ontological and epistemological debates and different approaches to research in the social sciences, delineate a research problem, identify units of analysis, make sampling decisions and formulate questions and hypothesis as well as understand the principles of quantitative (elementary statistical decision-making) and qualitative data analysis.

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