

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

Sociology 321 (SOC 321)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	07
Programmes	Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning [BTRP]
	BA specialising in Law
	Bachelor of Arts [BA] 3-year programme
	Bachelor of Arts [BA] 4-year programme
	Bachelor of Social Work [BSW]
	BPolSci specialising in International Studies
	BPolSci specialising in Political Studies
	BSocSci specialising in Industrial Sociology and Labour Studies
Prerequisites	SOC 210(GS) or SOC 211(GS) and SOC 220(GS) or SOC 221(GS)
Contact time	3 lectures per week, 1 tutorial 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.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.