

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

MSocSci specialising in Sociology (Coursework) (01253031)

Department Sociology

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 180

NQF level 09

Admission requirements

1. Honours degree in Sociology with relevant modules
or
Honours degree in Industrial Sociology
or
Relevant honours degree
2. A weighted average of at least 70% for the honours degree
3. Research component passed at honours level

Note:

1. An admissions essay/examination may be required
2. Additional work/modules may be required in order to reach the desired level of competency

Additional requirements

- SOC 751 and SOC 756 or equivalent modules in research methodology and social theory are required.
- Prospective students may have to submit an admissions essay or sit for an examination or do additional modules to enable them to reach the desired level of study.
- An acceptable level of proficiency in English or Afrikaans is required.
- Students with an average between 68% and 70% could be considered for admission under special conditions. Apply to the programme manager.

Other programme-specific information

- Choose one of the following core modules: SOC 857, SOC 859 or SOC 860.
- Choose one elective module.
- SOC 857, SOC 859 and SOC 860 may be chosen as elective when not already selected as a core module.
- Not all modules are offered in any given year. Please contact the programme manager in this regard.

Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

SOC 895 Mini-dissertation: Sociology

SOC 812 Advanced research methodology

Select One of the following:

SOC 857 Globalisation and development

SOC 859 Identity, culture and society

SOC 860 Political Economy to The Global South in the Twenty-First Century

Elective modules

One of the following:

GNR 861 Gender and the politics of knowledge

SOC 830 Managing Conflict

SOC 857 Globalisation and development**

SOC 858 The sociology of South Africa

SOC 859 Identity, culture and society**

SOC 860 Political Economy to The Global South in the Twenty-First Century**

SOC 861 Gender, family and households

SOC 862 Sociology organisations

Note:

**When not already selected as a core module

Core modules

Advanced research methodology 812 (SOC 812)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

This module aims to build upon students' prior training (at honours level) in research methods to interrogate the methodological and epistemological debates of social science research. The module provides students with a deep understanding of research concepts, ethics, and approaches as well as the key elements of the research process within qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. During the semester students will develop the skills and background knowledge needed to plan, organise and disseminate their own sound research projects. Assessments will include tasks linked to the seminars as well as an exam.

Environment, society, and development 857 (SOC 857)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to provide students with comprehensive conceptual, theoretical and empirical skills to comprehend issues at the nexus of the environment, society and development. Etched in environmental and natural resource governance, extractivism and development, as well as sustainability, the module endeavours to unravel the roots of environmental degradation, natural resources conflicts, environmental injustice, and how different actors, in society and globally, contribute or respond to these challenges. The module unpacks these issues using theoretical aspects of political ecology, political economy, coloniality and sustainable development. While focusing on environmental issues in Africa, the module engages with broader global developments, in particular, relations between the Global North and Global South.

Identity, culture and society 859 (SOC 859)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module focuses on the relationship between the personal and social and how these two domains are intricately related, simultaneously implying sameness and difference in the process of identification. It considers how societal structures and institutions shape and construct identities historically, whilst being shaped by individual agency, in turn. Human experience reveals a range of cross-cutting affiliations, based on ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexuality and generation, amongst others, implying a multiplicity in belonging, suggesting a relational process, rather than an essence. The social, contingent and constructed nature of identities is highlighted against experiences of dislocation within a context of globalisation.

Political economy to the global south in the twenty-first century 860 (SOC 860)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week, 1 lecture per week



Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Sociology

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module explores critical perspectives and current debates on world order and global development. Specifically, it focuses on the rise of emerging powers in the global South in general and Asia in particular and what this entails for the politics and political economy of global development. Central issues explored in the module are inequality, precarity, multipolarity, authoritarian/right-wing populism, poverty, work and working classes in middle-income countries, neo liberalization, and hegemonic transitions in the world system.

Mini-dissertation: Sociology 895 (SOC 895)

Module credits 90.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 seminar per week, 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Sociology

Period of presentation Year

Module content

A mini-dissertation of approximately 80 typed pages, based on independent research conducted by the student on an approved topic in the field of sociology, industrial sociology or gender studies, is written under the guidance of a supervisor.

Elective modules

Gender and the politics of knowledge 861 (GNR 861)

Module credits 30.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Sociology

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

This module explores the politics of feminist knowledge production across a range of geopolitical contexts. The politics of making feminist theories and narratives are debated via an exploration of concepts such as coloniality, intersectionality and epistemic injustice. The module also considers the links between epistemic frames and lived experiences of oppression and introduces students to the central ideas of feminist theoretical approaches such as: decolonial feminism, neo-materialism, social constructionism and transnational feminism. The module focuses throughout on the gendered and racialised politics of knowledge production.

Managing conflict in the workplace 830 (SOC 830)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

This module focuses on reviewing and interrogating sociological theories of and explanations for conflict in the workplace, with specific emphasis on issues such as strike violence.

Environment, society, and development 857 (SOC 857)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to provide students with comprehensive conceptual, theoretical and empirical skills to comprehend issues at the nexus of the environment, society and development. Etched in environmental and natural resource governance, extractivism and development, as well as sustainability, the module endeavours to unravel the roots of environmental degradation, natural resources conflicts, environmental injustice, and how different actors, in society and globally, contribute or respond to these challenges. The module unpacks these issues using theoretical aspects of political ecology, political economy, coloniality and sustainable development. While focusing on environmental issues in Africa, the module engages with broader global developments, in particular, relations between the Global North and Global South.

The sociology of South Africa 858 (SOC 858)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09



Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module takes a sociological approach to understanding and interrogating South African society. It begins by looking at some of the debates and discussions about Sociology in South Africa. It then reviews and debates key issues in order to understand the political economy of Apartheid. Finally it looks at some key debates associated with post-apartheid South Africa.

Identity, culture and society 859 (SOC 859)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module focuses on the relationship between the personal and social and how these two domains are intricately related, simultaneously implying sameness and difference in the process of identification. It considers how societal structures and institutions shape and construct identities historically, whilst being shaped by individual agency, in turn. Human experience reveals a range of cross-cutting affiliations, based on ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexuality and generation, amongst others, implying a multiplicity in belonging, suggesting a relational process, rather than an essence. The social, contingent and constructed nature of identities is highlighted against experiences of dislocation within a context of globalisation.

Political economy to the global south in the twenty-first century 860 (SOC 860)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week, 1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module explores critical perspectives and current debates on world order and global development. Specifically, it focuses on the rise of emerging powers in the global South in general and Asia in particular and what this entails for the politics and political economy of global development. Central issues explored in the module are inequality, precarity, multipolarity, authoritarian/right-wing populism, poverty, work and working classes in middle-income countries, neo liberalization, and hegemonic transitions in the world system.

Gender, family and households 861 (SOC 861)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

This course takes a macro-level perspective and introduces students to scholarly accounts of the changing historical trajectory of gender relations, marriage as an institution, family forms, and household composition and livelihoods and the implications thereof for understanding gender as a social relation. As such, it adopts a historical and comparative perspective, with a specific focus on Southern Africa. In addition, the module explores the role and impact of supra-state organisations, the state and the market in mediating and regulating gender identities and relations, as well as family and household forms, against the backdrop of the nation-state form and in the context of capitalism and neo-liberalism particularly.

Sociology of organisations 862 (SOC 862)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 seminar per week, 1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The module will allow students to engage with the theoretical framework/s and concepts of the sociology of organisations. Themes that will be covered include the changing nature of organisations, how the latter has been structured by different forms of capitalist accumulation and labour processes, changing organisational forms, organisational cultures, gender, power, conflict and leadership.

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.