

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Religious Studies
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Religious Studies
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 110 UCAS tariff points or equivalent
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College
UCAS Code	L300

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Religious Studies course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2017-18 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

Applied Sociology

Applied Sociology is a degree which aims to show students the relevance of sociology to everyday life. Applied sociologists work in various industries, including private business, government agencies and not-for-profit organisations. The work of applied sociologists is especially concerned with changing the current state of social life for the better. This can include anything from increasing the health and wellbeing of a disadvantaged community group; working with law enforcement organisations to implement a rehabilitation program for criminal offenders; assisting in planning for natural disasters; and enhancing existing government programs and policies.

Religious Studies

Religious Studies aims to explore a broad swathe of world religions and non-theistic philosophies to gain both an historical and contemporary understanding of how large groups of people view the world and the nature of Life itself. The course makes neither assumptions

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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about the truth of metaphysical claims nor attempts to “prove” that one ideology is superior to another, but seeks to understand each belief system on its own terms.

The course focusses on central texts and engages in literary exegesis and historical contextualisation. It also explores the historical and social development of major religious movements and their interaction both with each other and also non-religious forces (such as governments, scientific advances etc.).

Course Aims

Applied Sociology

- To provide the opportunity for students to develop an understanding of major concepts and themes in contemporary sociology and an ability to relate them to life in the community and globally
- Students will develop a critical approach to their studies in sociology, evaluating theory and evidence accordingly
- To ensure that students develop autonomous learning and research skills which provide a basis for lifelong learning
- To develop and enhance skills in written, oral and IT communication
- To ensure that students have the opportunities to develop a range of analytic and graduate skills adequate for a range of professional and life situations

Religious Studies

- Give an overview of the development of theological thought from early animism, through polytheism and on to monotheism and non-theistic philosophies
- Outline the major religious traditions extant in the world today, setting out their central teachings, ethical codes, festivals and modes of worship
- Tackle some of the major moral dilemmas found in many religions, especially dealing with issues of suffering and cruelty
- Develop student skills in exegesis of a variety of texts that are held to be sacred
- Expound research issues both in the study of ancient and modern religions
- Contrast eastern and western modes of thought and their mutual interactions
- Create opportunities to consider the artistic, ethical, gendered, social, political and cultural characteristics of religion(s)
- Foster empathetic engagement with both the familiar and unfamiliar
- Explore in an interdisciplinary way, the interface between religious studies, and other combined honours subjects of Ethics, History and Sociology

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- Promote self-critical awareness of presuppositions and encouraging constructive and critical exposition of arguments for a particular position

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Religious Studies course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Applied Sociology

1. Sound understanding of a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches in Applied Sociology and the ability to evaluate their application
2. Critical understanding of social diversity and inequality and their effects
3. Evaluation of the processes that underpin social change and social stability
4. Ability to critically assess a range of research strategies and methods in applied sociology and assess their appropriate use
5. The relationship between, and strengths and weaknesses of, sociological arguments and those of other social science/humanities disciplines
6. The ways in which Applied Sociology can be distinguished from other forms of understanding
7. The ability to assess a range of sociological perspectives and discuss the strengths of each for the understanding of events
8. The ability to draw on materials from a wide range of sociological sources and demonstrate an ability to compare, synthesise and critically evaluate them
9. The ability to draw on evidence to compare and critically evaluate competing explanations in sociology

Generic and graduate skills

10. Critical evaluation of arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem
11. Confidence to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences
12. Be aware of contextual and interpersonal factors in groups and teams
13. The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts and the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further post-graduate study and/or training of a professional or equivalent nature

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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14. An ability to design, research, and present a sustained and independently conceived dissertation/project in accordance with the academic conventions of Applied Sociology, or an *interdisciplinary* dissertation that includes Applied Sociology in accordance with appropriate academic conventions

Religious Studies

1. Discuss and demonstrate, where appropriate, critical comprehension of the religion's or religions' classic sources and their subsequent articulations by some interpreters of the tradition(s) in different historical periods and in different social or geographical settings
2. Critique the ways in which theological teachings and textual exegesis change and so revise the understanding of scripture-based religions
3. Differentiate between understandings and uses of various texts held to be sacred by different cultures
4. Analyse religious narratives to unpack their deeper symbolism and spiritual lessons
5. Demonstrate intellectual flexibility through the practice of a variety of complementary methods of study, for example, philosophical, historical, dogmatic, exegetical, phenomenological, linguistic, hermeneutical, empirical, speculative, social scientific, archaeological, practical, pastoral
6. Demonstrate awareness of and critical assessment of religious contributions to debate in the public arena concerning, for example, values, evil, truth, beauty, identity, health, peace and justice
7. Demonstrate a critical understanding of how personal and communal identities and motivations are shaped by religion, the importance of such identities and how this has both positive and negative effects
8. Demonstrate a capacity to apply formal learning to concrete social and vocational contexts.

Generic skills

9. Engage with empathy, integrity and critical reflection with the convictions and behaviours of others
10. Undertake independent or self-directed study or learning (including time management) and reflect on one's strengths and weaknesses as a learner
11. Identify, gather and analyse primary data and source material, whether through textual studies or fieldwork

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks Sociology (2016)

- Theology and Religious Studies (2014)

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Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Religious Studies comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷	Module	Credits	Module Type
Applied Sociology			Religious Studies		
Level 4					
Introduction to Applied Sociology	20	R	Classical Polytheism	20	R
Contemporary Social Inequalities	20	R	Emergence of Monotheism	20	R
Making Sense of Modernity	20	R	Philosophy of Religion	20	R
Level 5					
Dissertation/Project Preparation (20 credits) NB This is a mandatory module pre-requisite for the final year undergraduate Dissertation. For the remaining modules at Level 5, choose two modules from one subject and three modules from the other					
Research Methodology for Social Science: Applied Sociology	20	M	Indian Religions and Cultures	20	O
Theorising Social Life	20	O	The Problem of Evil	20	O
Understanding Crime	20	O	Heresy and Dissent	20	O
Level 6					
Undergraduate Dissertation/Project (40 credits, Mandatory) NB The Undergraduate Dissertation is mandatory. Interdisciplinary topics, i.e. topics combining both subjects, are welcome and should be discussed and agreed with your dissertation supervisor.					
The Sociology of Work and the Professions	20	R	Contemporary Christianity	20	R
The Sociology of Health and Illness	20	R	East Asian Religions	20	R

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Applied Sociology and Religious Studies.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College. Students studying full-time on BA Hons Applied Sociology and Religious Studies are likely to have approximately 10 contact hours for Level 4, 10 contact hours for level 5 and 10 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar discussion, and practical activity (e.g. site visit where appropriate). Students will normally be expected to undertake 25

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

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hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mostly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects), and up to 4 examinations depending on the module options chosen.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking Applied Sociology and Religious Studies will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£10,080 per year
Part-time International	£1,680 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy. Students are likely to incur other costs for equipment, materials, optional field trips, and exhibitions amounting to approximately £40 per year. Students should also prepare for the following costs:

- Parking (£2 per day)
- The library resources are wide ranging but should you need an inter-library loan there may be a charge; please refer to the [Library Resources](#) website for further information
- Essential texts approximately £250

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).