

Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for MA Violence and Society

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	MA Violence and Society
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	N/A
5. Final qualification	MA/PG Dip./PG Cert
6. Academic year	2014/15
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	F/T, P/T

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

First degree, lower second class honours, or better. International students for whom English is not a first language should have one of the following: IELTS at 6.5; TOEFL at 600; Cambridge Advanced or Proficiency at grade c.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

The MA Violence and Society aims to provide students with an advanced and critical understanding of the context, causes, nature, forms, effects of, and responses to, violence across different domains of social life. The programme provides students with an appreciation of the complexities and multi-dimensionality of violence in the service of challenging common sense assumptions. The programme aims to provide an understanding, grounded in sociology but drawing on an inter-disciplinary framework, to underpin further learning or practice. By the end of the programme, the successful student will have gained an advanced understanding of:

- the theoretical and conceptual frameworks for understanding the relationship between violence and society
- the comparative and historically-informed empirical understanding of violence, across a range of domains of social life
- the political and ethical dimensions of violence, and its study
- various responses to, and/or contestations in respect of, violence
- a range of research methodologies appropriate to the study violence in context and an ability to employ the same.
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11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. Current theoretical and methodological debates within the discipline of Sociology pertinent to the relationship between violence and society
2. Advanced knowledge of the nature, forms and effects of different forms of violence in society
3. The issues involved in developing a comparative understanding of violence in a globalised context
4. Advanced scholarship linking violence, social change and social order
5. The relationships between sociological analyses of violence and interdisciplinary approaches
6. Theoretical and methodological issues involved in comparing and contrasting of various manifestations on violence on a multi-scalar level
7. Advanced research strategies and methods pertinent to the study of violence

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through active participation in a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, assignments, practical exercises, tutorials, e-mail support, independent self-directed study and/or experiential learning

Assessment

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by way of various summative assessment methods ranging from: essays, reports, oral presentations, a research proposal and a dissertation.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

On completion of the programme, the successful student will be able to:

1. Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively
2. Design and undertake substantial investigations to address significant areas of theory and or/practice
3. Communicate conclusions clearly to specialist as well as non-specialist audiences
4. Develop own strategies for undertaking sociological research
5. Flexibly and creatively apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through preparation for and participation in, seminars and through presentation of ideas in verbal and written formats. They receive formative feedback on their skills through group-work and in individual tutorials as well as in written feedback on assignments.

Assessment

Students' cognitive skills are assessed by written assignments, including: essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation, and also through oral presentation of their work.

C. Practical skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Undertake the independent learning required for continuing professional

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn practical skills through active participation in formal and informal learning environments that make use of lectures, workshops, seminars, student

development 2. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems 3. Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding and to develop new skills to a high level 4. Incorporate a critical ethical dimension into practice 5. Successfully complete a substantial empirical research project, systematic review of systematic case study, informed by current understandings of the discipline	presentations and completion of exercises, tutorials, e-mail support and self-directed study. Assessment Students' practical skills are assessed by way of written assignments, including: essays, book reviews, a research proposal and their dissertation, and also through oral presentation of their work.
D. Graduate Skills N/A	
12. Programme structure	
<p>The MA is studied over one year full time or two years part-time. It is made up of 4 core 30 credit modules and a 60 credit dissertation.</p> <p>The Postgraduate Diploma is made up of 120 credits and follows the same structure as the MA but without the dissertation.</p> <p>The Postgraduate Certificate is made up of 60 credits, which can be comprised of any combination of the MA Violence and Society modules, except for the dissertation</p>	
12. 1 Overall structure of the programme	

12.2 Levels and modules	
COMPULSORY ¹	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SOC4700 – Understandings of violence SOC4710 – Contesting Violence SOC4720 – Violence in Society SOC4750 - Systemic Violence SOC4760 - Dissertation</p>	

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
All Modules	SOC4700, SOC4710, SOC4720, SOC4750, SOC4760

¹Compulsory modules are those that must be taken, that is, the qualification cannot be made unless these modules have been successfully completed. Each of these modules makes a unique contribution to the learning objectives of the programme.

13. Curriculum map

See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations

The Department of Criminology and Sociology adheres to the Middlesex University Guide and Regulations on all assessment regulations.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

N/A.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

The knowledge and skills acquired through the MA Violence and Society will be of value to students across a wide range of academic and professional interests. The programme offers access to a range of subject specific and transferable knowledge and skills. Post-graduate programmes from the Department of Criminology and Sociology at Middlesex University are highly respected across a wide variety of professional and academic contexts.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

All new students are offered an induction tour of the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and further workshops in, for example, use of the library catalogue, searching databases and various software packages such as MS Word are offered by LRC staff and/or the Learner Development Unit (LDU) (see below). These sessions are highlighted to new students in particular, but advice, information and support is available on an ongoing basis.

The library holds copies of core texts and most of the recommended reading on MA and sociology modules. Copies of key texts out of print are kept in the Photocopy Collection and available through the LRC helpdesk. Material which is not in stock but required for individual research/dissertations can be obtained via the British Library on completion of a request form. This process normally takes about two weeks. The UK Libraries Plus Scheme also provides access to local participating libraries. Students can apply to join this scheme at the LRC Enquiries desk.

Post-graduate students also have access to a Post-graduate reading/computer room within the LRC.

In addition, our students are encouraged to take full advantage of University-level and student union learning support schemes and facilities. The Learner Development Unit (LDU) is highly recommended at induction and in the formative weeks of the programme, especially for overseas students and for those entering or returning to HE after a considerable period of time out of education.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

L390

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

Sociology Subject Benchmarks (2007)

20. Reference points

The following documents were consulted:

Middlesex University Guide and Regulations

The Learning Framework Programme Design Guide (2006)

University and School of Law, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2008

Sociology Benchmark Statement 2007

21. Other information

N/A

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the University Regulations.

Curriculum map for MA Violence and Society

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Current theoretical and methodological debates within the discipline of Sociology pertinent to the relationship between violence and society	C1	Undertake the independent learning required for continuing professional development
A2	Advanced knowledge of the nature, forms and effects of different forms of violence in society	C2	Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems
A3	Critical knowledge of the issues involved in developing a comparative understanding of violence in a globalised context	C3	Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding and to develop new skills to a high level
A4	Advanced scholarship linking violence, social change and social order	C4	Incorporate a critical ethical dimension into practice
A5	The relationships between sociological analyses of violence and interdisciplinary approaches	C5	Successfully complete a substantial empirical research project, systematic review of systematic case study, informed by current understandings of the discipline
A6	Theoretical and methodological issues involved in comparing and contrasting of various manifestations on violence on a multi-scalar level		
A7	Advanced research strategies and methods pertinent to the study of violence		
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively		
B2	Design and undertake substantial investigations to		

	address significant areas of theory and or/practice		
B3	Communicate conclusions clearly to specialist as well as non-specialist audiences		
B4	Develop own strategies for undertaking sociological research		
B5	Flexibly and creatively apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts		

