

MODULE PROFORMA		
<i>4SOCL002W Identity and Society</i>		
Module code: 4SOCL002W	Credit level: 4	Length: One semester
UK credit value: 20	ECTS value: 10	
Faculty and Department: Social Sciences and Humanities / History, Sociology and Criminology		
Module Leader: Dr Adam Eldridge		
Extension: 66567	Email: a.c.eldridge@westminster.ac.uk	
Host course and course leader: BA (hons) Sociology, Dr Francis Ray White		
Status: Core		
Subject Board: SHS Level 4		
Pre-requisites: None	Co-requisites: None	
Study abroad: Yes. Alternative assessment (take-home exam)		
Special features: None		
Access restrictions: None		
Are the module learning outcomes delivered, assessed or supported through an arrangement with an organisation(s) other than the University of Westminster. No		
Summary of module content: This module provides a critical vocabulary for exploring and understanding the relationship between the self and society. It introduces classic and contemporary accounts of identity and critically explores sociological accounts of identity and its formation.		

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

1. distinguish between sociological analysis and common-sense understandings (4.1, 4.4, 4.7);
2. understand the complexity of identity, and key concepts relating to identity (4.1, 4.4);
3. apply the concepts discussed in the study to a range of areas of social life *and to your own* (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4);
4. think sociologically about the relationship between self and society (4.2, 4.3);
5. utilise key concepts such as identity, power, discourse (4.1, 4.7);
6. understand the difference between essentialist and critical accounts of identity (4.1, 4.4, 4.7);

7. demonstrate evidence of transferable skills including effective written communication and independent study (4.8, 4.9);
8. demonstrate an awareness of how identities are represented through contemporary discourse, texts, and institutions (4.2, 4.3).

Course outcomes the module contributes to: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9 (these are listed above in parentheses after relevant learning outcomes).

Indicative syllabus content

- Essentialism and Constructivism
- Individualisation and neo-liberalism
- Symbolic interactionism
- 'Race' and ethnicity
- Gender and sexuality
- Embodiment
- Intersectionality

Teaching and learning methods

The module will be delivered via lectures, seminars, practical workshops and a fieldtrip. Lectures will introduce key theories and concepts. Seminars will allow students to discuss and develop their understanding of these key theorists and concepts. The lectures and seminars will be supported with practical workshops which will be based on reflective writing practice and online discussion forums. Students will also have the opportunity to present developing work in workshop sessions. A fieldtrip to a relevant exhibition space will extend learner's skills in exploring the representation of identity.

Activity type	Category	Student learning and teaching hours*
Lecture	Scheduled	11
Seminar	Scheduled	22
Tutorial	Scheduled	
Project supervisor	Scheduled	
Demonstration	Scheduled	
Practical Classes and workshops	Scheduled	12
Supervised time in studio/workshop	Scheduled	
Fieldwork	Scheduled	
External visits	Scheduled	3
Work based learning	Scheduled	
Total Scheduled		48
Placement	Placement	
Independent study	Independent	152
Total student learning and teaching hours		200

*the hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.

Assessment rationale

1. Word Report (50%)

This formative assessment is a critically informed report on a key term or concept from the module. This form of assessment has been chosen in order to allow learners to investigate one key word / concept of their own choosing and examine its use in a sociological context. The ways in which the word / concept has been defined, mobilised and developed by key theorists will be examined. The report will be based on academic texts and allow students to critically engage with a central word / concept while examining a broad range of literature. The report covers learning outcomes 1, 2, 5 and 7.

2. Exam (closed book) (50%)

The second assignment is a synoptic assessment with 4SOCL001W: Thinking Sociologically. This will take the form of an exam which will test concepts and theories developed across both modules. Students will demonstrate familiarity with key authors discussed in the modules and in doing so explain how sociology can aid in understanding key areas of contemporary society such as identity, society and culture, as well as debates around classic and contemporary accounts of the self and the social. This assessment addresses the learning outcomes 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Assessment criteria

In the word report, learners are expected to demonstrate the ability to:

- examine a key word / concept and explain how it informs sociological understandings of identity;
- examine a wide range of literature in order to come to an informed and critical understanding of a key word / concept;
- utilise a sociological vocabulary;
- demonstrate a critical awareness of debates about the chosen word / concept;
- indicate an awareness of key theorists of identity
- utilise primary and secondary sources effectively;
- use appropriate academic conventions of referencing and writing.

In the exam, learners are expected to demonstrate the ability to:

- construct a critically informed understanding of how identity and society have been conceived in classic and contemporary texts;
- understand critical accounts, terms and concepts of identity;
- draw on knowledge about identity;
- communicate in good written English;
- critically engage with the question and answer it in a concise and analytical manner.

Assessment methods and weightings

Assessment name	Weighting %	Qualifying mark %	Qualifying set	Assessment type (e.g. essay, presentation, open exam or closed exam)
Word Report	50%	35%		report
Exam	50%	35%		exam (closed book)

Synoptic assessment

The synoptic assessment is an exam with 4SOCL001W: Thinking Sociologically.

Sources

Abercrombie, N., Hill, S. and Turner, B. (2006) *The Penguin Dictionary of Sociology* (5th Edition). London: Penguin.

Bauman, Z. (2000) *The Individualised Society*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Giddens, A. (1991) *Modernity and Self Identity*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Karner, C. (2007) *Ethnicity and Everyday Life*. London, Routledge.

Lawler, S. (2008) *Identity: Sociological Perspectives*. Cambridge: Polity.

Woodward, K. (ed.) (2004) *Questioning Identity: Gender, Class, Ethnicity*. London: Routledge.

Essential reading list

Beck, U. and Beck-Gernsheim, E. (2011) *Individualization*. London: Sage.

Billington, R., Hockey, J. and Strawbridge, S. (1998) *Exploring Self and Society*. Basingstoke: MacMillan.

Ferguson, H. (2009) *Self-identity and Everyday Life*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Nettleton, S. and Watson, J. (eds) (1998) *The Body in Everyday Life*. London: Routledge.

Payne, G. (ed.) (2013) *Social Divisions* (3rd Edition). London: Palgrave.

Woodward, K. (2002) *Understanding Identity*. London: Arnold.

Date of initial validation: March 2015

Dates of approved modifications:

Date of re-validation/review: