

## Programme change proposals

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme	<a href="#">BA Philosophy and Sociology</a>
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### Important note:

***You will find below statements of the overall plans for teaching and assessment prepared by the two departments responsible for your programme. Please read both of these carefully. Note that the approaches taken by different departments will differ at least in details, so please read both sets of notes to see how each department's plans will impact on your modules in the relevant disciplines. If you want to return feedback on the proposals, please specify which department's arrangements you are commenting on, where appropriate.***

### Philosophy

Summary of Overall Plans (Philosophy)
<p>For modules with lectures, lecture material will be recorded and made available online for you to watch at a time that suits you. We will typically record the material in manageable chunks and post it on the VLE.</p> <p>For the vast majority of modules with lectures and seminars, or just seminars, we expect to provide regular, frequent face-to-face seminars for all on-campus students. Wherever possible, seminars will follow the same pattern as they would have done pre-pandemic: typically, weekly. Face-to-face seminars will also often be in smaller groups than would previously have been the case.</p> <p>For students unable to be on campus, we will provide an online seminar for every module.</p>

The length, content and frequency of the online seminar will replicate that of the module's face-to-face seminars, to ensure that students attending in this way are able to meet module and programme learning outcomes.

We will also provide 'bridging' activities in addition to seminars and recorded lecture material. These may vary from module to module but might include quizzes or worksheets. These bridging activities will compensate for a lack of interaction in lectures, as well as ensuring that students are well prepared for seminars. Office hours will also be held, either face-to-face, or online.

We do not expect that most on-campus students will be participating frequently in online seminars. However, we will make sure that students and staff are prepared to transfer from a face-to-face to an online seminar, in case the need arises—for example, if students or staff need to self-isolate, or in case of local lockdown.

Teaching in Philosophy modules in Summer Term — which was entirely online — was in general very well received. Student feedback was positive, with feedback scores overall as high as for modules in Summer 2019. Student comments indicate that live online seminars, and the other measures we introduced to provide excellent learning opportunities, worked well. We don't currently anticipate having to do a lot of non-lecture teaching online, but we're confident that we can teach well online if it's needed.

We will continue to assess students through a combination of essays and online exams. Details of assessment plans for each module will be available by the start of term.

#### Programme Structures (Philosophy)

We are not planning to make any changes to programme structures in Autumn term 2020/21: we do not plan to cancel any modules or move them between terms.

#### Further changes or information of note (Philosophy)

No further changes

***\*\*Overall Plans from Sociology are below\*\****

#### Summary of Overall Plans (Sociology)

### **Proposed changes to Sociology first year modules**

#### **Seminars**

If you are joining us in September as a first year student reading for one of the degrees listed above, we plan to offer you the opportunity to have regular in-person seminars as in normal times. We know that starting your degree is an exciting but also challenging time, so we wish to provide you with as much in-person contact time as possible.

#### **What if I cannot attend these seminars in person?**

If you are not able to join us on campus and take part in these seminars, because you are shielding, self-isolating or unable to travel, we will provide high quality learning opportunities online. This will take the form of real-time seminars using our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) platform. This will be a great way to engage with other students and with your seminar leaders and has much of the feel of in-person teaching. To help you make the most of these opportunities, we will show you how to use this platform. You will be invited to sign up for them in week 1 of the new term.

#### **Lectures**

All of our lectures that we would normally give each week in large lecture theatres across the campus will instead be available for you to watch as 'lecturecasts'. Each of these 'lecturecasts' will be fully accessible and will provide you with essential knowledge in preparation for the seminars and the readings that we will ask you to do each week.

### **Proposed changes to Sociology second year modules**

If you are returning to York for the second year of your degree, we are making plans to change how we teach your chosen programmes in the following ways.

#### ***Core modules:***

*Doing Research* (for all degrees),

*Crime, Culture and Social Change* (for BA Criminology and BA Sociology with Criminology students)

*Critical and Creative Approaches to Social Psychology* (for BA Sociology with Social Psychology students).

#### **Seminars**

We plan to offer you regular in-person seminars for the core modules that you will be taking.

#### **What if I cannot attend these seminars in person?**

If you are not able to join us on campus and take part in these seminars, because you are shielding, self-isolating or unable to travel, we will provide high quality learning opportunities online. This will take the form of real-time seminars using our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) platform. This will be a great way to engage with other students and with your seminar leaders and has much of the feel of in-person teaching. You will be invited to sign up for them in week 1 of the new term.

#### Lectures

Any and all lecture content for these core modules will be available for you to watch as 'lecturecasts'. Each of these 'lecturecasts' will be fully accessible and will provide you with essential knowledge in preparation for the seminars, readings and activities that we will ask you to do each week.

#### *Optional Modules*

#### Seminars

Due to current distancing rules, we do not have appropriate physical space to offer regular in-person seminar teaching on these modules. Instead, we will be running online real-time seminars using the VLE platform. As with the seminars you took part in last year, we will be using Collaborate Ultra. This will be a great way to engage with other students and with your seminar leaders and has much of the feel of in-person teaching.

#### Tutorials

We recognise and value our in-person time with you as students so, alongside the online seminars, so we are planning to run small group tutorials for each of the modules that you have signed up to take. These will take place in weeks 2 and 9 of each term. These tutorials will be geared around helping you prepare for the assessments.

#### What if I cannot attend these tutorials in person?

Again, if you are not able to join us on campus and take part in these tutorials, because you are shielding, self-isolating or unable to travel, we will provide an online version of these tutorials. You will be invited to sign up for them in week 1 of the new term.

#### Lectures

As with the core modules, we will be providing lecturecasts, activities and tasks for you to do, alongside the usual readings.

#### **Proposed changes to Sociology third year modules**

If you are returning to York for the final year of your degree, we are planning some changes to how we teach on your chosen modules.

*Optional Modules:*

*The Dissertation* (optional in Philosophy and Sociology)

Dissertation Lectures

All of the five lectures that we provide in the autumn term to help you make a great start on your dissertation will be available for you to watch as 'lecturecasts'. Each of these 'lecturecasts' will be fully accessible and will be a great resource for you to access.

Individual supervisions for dissertations

To support you with your dissertation research, we provide you with six hours of dedicated individual supervision. You can expect that in the autumn term your supervisions will take online with your allocated supervisor (using Zoom or similar platform).

*Other Option Modules:*

Seminars/Workshops

Due to current distancing rules, we do not have sufficient, appropriate physical space to offer regular in-person seminar teaching on these modules. Instead, we are planning to run online real-time seminars using the VLE platform. As with the seminars you took part in last year, we will be using Collaborate Ultra. This will be a great way to engage with other students and with your module leaders and has much of the feel of in-person teaching.

Tutorials

We recognise and value our in-person time with you as students so, alongside the online seminars, we plan to run small group tutorials for each of the modules that you have signed up to take. These will take place in weeks 2 and 9 of each term. These tutorials will be geared around helping you prepare for the assessments.

What if I cannot attend these tutorials in person?

Again, if you are not able to join us on campus and take part in these tutorials, because you are shielding, self-isolating or unable to travel, we will provide an online version of these tutorials. You will be invited to sign up for them in week 1 of the new term.

Lectures

Any lecture content included on third year optional modules will be available for you to watch as lecturecasts ahead of the seminars.

Programme Structures (Sociology)
We are not intending to make any changes to the programme structure. We are not planning to withdraw any of the modules that we currently offer or to transfer any modules across the teaching terms.

Further changes or information of note (Sociology)
Your safety and the safety of those who are teaching you are of paramount importance to us in the Department. Therefore, all of the plans that we are making could change if local circumstances demand it or Government advice changes on physical distancing. Please be assured that whether you are taught in person or online, we are committed to providing you with the very best experience and opportunities to help you fulfil your potential.