

## 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(s)	<p>We run the following undergraduate programmes in the Department of Sociology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">BA Sociology</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BA Sociology with Criminology</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BA Sociology with Social Psychology</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BA Sociology/Education</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BA Criminology</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">LLB Law and Criminology</a></li> </ul> <p>We also contribute modules to the following undergraduate programmes with our partner departments at the University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">BA Philosophy/Sociology</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BA Social and Political Sciences</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BA Social and Political Sciences with Philosophy</a></li> </ul>
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The impact of the COVID pandemic brought about unprecedented levels of change for all of us across the world. Yet one of the most remarkable aspects of this period has been how well people have adapted to the many issues they have faced and, in doing so, continued to thrive in their studies. We saw students in the Department of Sociology, as a whole, continuing to produce outstanding work throughout the COVID-19 period.

As we reflect on this period of change, we are also looking forward to the year ahead, when we welcome you to our thriving community in the Department of Sociology. Whether you're studying BA Sociology, BA Criminology, or any of the various pathways and joint honours, you're going to meet staff who are eager to meet you and introduce you to the ideas, methods, concepts and problems that will make up your studies over the next three years.

We want to ensure that you succeed in your learning and we are committed to delivering the highest standard of teaching, to support you as much as we can on your journey. To do so, we need to make some changes to how we deliver teaching, in order to keep you safe and to give you the best quality experience. We are therefore asking you for your input on the plans we have made to ensure that learning and teaching is the best it can be.

### **Proposed changes to our 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 an online seminar group in week 1 of the new term. Also, if your circumstances change, you will be able to transfer into an online group after that time.

#### **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.

#### Programme Structures

We are not intending to make any changes to the programme structure for any of the undergraduate degrees we are responsible for running in our Department (so this excludes BA Philosophy/Sociology, BA Social and Political Sciences and BA Social and Political Sciences with Philosophy). 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

Our plan is for meetings with academic supervisors to take place online as will office hours, during which module leaders and other members of the teaching staff will be available to give you feedback on your learning, discuss assessments, or other issues.

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.