BA (HONS) SOCIAL SCIENCE
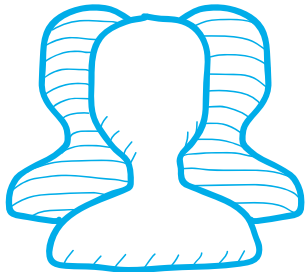
Students who enrol on this online learning course will explore a range of topics across the Social Sciences. From examining how our social lives are constructed, to the factors that affect how we interact – for example, class, race, gender, religion, family, nationality and race – you will be immersed in making a science of the social world around you.

You will learn to draw together ideas from a range of perspectives which employers will value – as well as honing your skills in thinking critically and analytically and evaluating data and research.

Modules are: Level 4

Skills for Interdisciplinary Study

Whether it has been years since you studied or you have barely taken a breath since your last essay, this module is the gateway to your brand new course. We will be looking both at developing your skills as a learner and also helping you look at problems from different perspectives.

You will be introduced to your online academic community and discover more about the key skills needed for your course. You will, at the same time, be developing the personal skills demanded by employers to help you to improve your career prospects.

Law & Ethics

Understanding law is one thing - but what about ethics? This module will put the spotlight on civil and human rights, how to give sound advice and where your responsibilities lie. We'll throw you a few knotty problems to get your teeth into, too.

Introduction to Social and Developmental Psychology

Here, you'll get your first taste of two of the core domains of psychology: developmental and social psychology. Developmental psychology examines the changes in human beings over their lifespan, from infancy and childhood through adolescence, adulthood and ageing. The theories involved cover a huge range of topics including language acquisition, personality and ideas about the self and forming an identity. Through social psychology, you'll look at people's thoughts, feelings and behaviours and how they are influenced.

Introduction to Sociology

In this module you will be introduced to some of the key areas of sociology. You will meet the key thinkers, from Karl Marx and Max Weber to post-war theorists like Michel Foucault and Anthony Giddens, names you will become very familiar with as you progress through the programme.

Through these ideas - and by looking at class, gender, religion, family, race and more - you will begin to understand how people interact and how things we assume to be normal or natural are actually the product of a complex mix of learned social codes and rules.

ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

Medicalisation of the Self

Hardly a week goes by without a story in the media about health issues. This module looks at the human body and how it has arguably become an object of control and surveillance.

You will discover how responsibility for human welfare has moved from the collective to the individual, and consider the origins and development of the welfare state.

You will look at a range of current media discussions, such as: people who break the 'rules' of a healthy society; the ethics of genetic engineering; and the rights of citizens as regards access to healthcare.

Crime & Society

This module will provide you with an introduction to the study of criminology from its beginnings in the 1700s right up to all the latest thinking about crime and criminal justice. You will discover why they call criminology a 'rendezvous discipline', with its mix of sociology, psychology, law and political philosophy.

You will start to explore theories about crime and models of criminal justice, as well as looking at explanatory factors for crime, such as social class, gender, family, health, education and race and ethnicity, and consider some criminology sub-branches, such as victimology.

Level 5

Research and Ethics in Action

This project gives you the chance to showcase your abilities in a piece of work that you design. You will scope out a project and design a methodology to undertake it, learning how to consider different perspectives and developing a range of skills with wide application in the workplace. You will also be required to consider the ethical issues of the work that you are undertaking, which will also give you a chance to think about how we should incorporate ethics into our decision making. At the end of the module, you will apply all this in a practical way in your final project.

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

You'll have touched on this in the first year but here you'll really get to grips with human rights. What rights and freedoms do we really have? How much power do the police wield? What's the relationship between individuals and the state?

Personality & Intelligence

This module takes us into other key areas that psychology focuses on: personality and intelligence. You'll explore on the key theories, debates, measurement and values of personality and intelligence.

There are a number of substantial topics to engage with, including psychoanalytic, behavioural, cultural, social, humanistic, trait-based, and biological approaches to personality. You'll discover psychological testing, historical and contemporary approaches to intelligence and their implications for education and society. Delving deeper, there will be sessions on the roles of genes and environment, plus a look at biological and psychological factors. You'll also take a look at the most widely-used psychometric tests covering both personality and intelligence.

Social Psychology

One of the key things that you will have learned by now is that there is always more than one way to look at a problem. This module considers several different schools of thought as we consider how we might study individuals within groups.

You will look at how certain social groups, with their identities and beliefs, influence the way people think and behave in different situations. You'll examine communication, cohesion, decision making, leadership, and conflict within groups, comparing and contrasting the work of leading writers.

Contemporary Debates in Criminology

Issues relating to crime and justice are discussed on a regular basis in the media. This module will consider a range of topics currently being debated. These might include: hate crime; the age of criminal responsibility, including high-profile cases of juveniles committing serious offences; global organised crime and terrorism; and miscarriages of justice.

Beneath all these topics are deeper issues about how the State should function, including policies that address social exclusion, the integrity of police investigations and civil liberty vs surveillance.

Cyber Communities & Social Networks

Our networks have changed drastically - from local communities to today's globalised cyber and social networks. You will strip down the central ideas of community and network, examine how communication has changed and take a look at how this has altered communities.

Then you will turn your focus to those technological communities and what effect they have on issues such as freedom of speech and security. You will look at who benefits from these changes - and who's left on the side-lines.

Level 6
Cybercrime

In October 2015 it was reported that the rate of UK crime more than doubled. The reason for this was the inclusion of a staggering 7.6 million incidences of online fraud and cybercrime.

In this module, you will consider the technological developments making this possible and explore links with other areas of the criminal justice system as well as how it relates to other parts of the programme

Crime Prevention

Until recently, crime prevention has been considered as falling into administrative and policy areas. In this module, though, you will discover all the latest thinking, which takes criminological ideas about the causes of crime and applies them to the practical aspects of crime prevention.

You will debate the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches and think about the merits of situational vs social measures in crime prevention. You will look at how communities, policing and the environment influence crime control and also have the chance to work practically to generate real ideas to put into practice.

Cross-Cultural Psychology

Most psychological research has been done in the West - and that means it only really applies to a limited population. With borders between Eastern and Western cultures becoming increasingly blurred, psychology has turned its attention to the way different societies operate, how we understand each other and how we act towards each other. Cross-cultural psychology looks at the similarities and differences between cultures - and you'll learn how these kinds of studies are done, so you've got the tools to carry out your own research. As you near the end of the programme you will be able to exercise your critical and analytical skills to develop practical solutions to problems and this module gives you the chance to do that by taking a case study approach.

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Consumer Society & the Commodification of Beings

We hear a lot about the consumer society and this module will look at how neoliberal ideas, introduced in the late 1970s, have fundamentally changed our economy and our society.

You will look at how human beings have become both consumers and commodities, how products have been displaced by brands and how people use brands and celebrities to build their own identity. You will take a detailed look at the influence of some major brands and how their power impacts on original thinking.

Research Planning & Project

This is the final module of your degree and gives you the opportunity to specialise in an area of the programme that has interested you the most. It is a major piece of independent work and throughout your study we will provide you with the skills that you need to complete it. Working with your supervising tutor, you will choose an interdisciplinary area related to your degree to research. You will have the opportunity to apply all the skills you have learned throughout the programme to demonstrate your ability to design and implement a piece of work. This provides a showcase for your abilities and something that evidences the sorts of skills demanded by employers.

Course duration and hours of study

This varies depending on your rate of progress - you can access modules at a pace that is convenient for you.

Once you have accessed a module, there is a minimum and maximum time that you will need to finish the module within.

You can find out more information on the course page, visit www.arden.ac.uk. Alternatively, please call our admissions team on:

+44 (0) 2476 515700 or

0800 268 7737 for more details.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for this course you must have either:

Two subjects at GCE A level or equivalent, plus passes at grade C or above in three subjects at GCSE level or equivalent; or completed a recognised Access Programme or equivalent.

For students whose prior learning was not taught in English:

IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

If you have work experience

We're happy to consider an application from you if you can show us you have the motivation to study the programme.

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How to apply

Visit: www.arden.ac.uk

Email: admissions@arden.ac.uk

Call: +44 (0) 2476 515700 / 0800 268 7737