

## **Honours in Sociology or Social Anthropology**

The Honours programme offers students a firm foundation in the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of each of the two disciplines, on which further postgraduate work can be built.

Students interested in careers as academics, researchers, social and policy analysts, planners, developers, consultants, social workers, human resource managers, and communications, government and NGO officials will all benefit, as will individuals with a general interest in deepening and broadening their understanding of society and social dynamics.

The programme aims:

- To develop theoretical insight concerning social relations, social institutions, and the dynamics of social change;
- To develop rigorous conceptual and research skills;
- To deepen understanding of social dynamics within the southern African region within a comparative perspective; and
- To encourage students to develop their individual areas of research interest and expertise.

### *Programme design*

The programme is designed as a residential programme for full-time study, involving regular class meetings and seminars as well as time for individual reading and research. It takes a minimum of a year to complete. Research projects are usually handed in for examination by mid-December, meaning that successful students will graduate at the following March graduation ceremony.

The two disciplines run in parallel with integration of classes at particular points. Students obtain either the degree BA Honours in Sociology or the degree BA Honours in Social Anthropology depending on their undergraduate major and their selected area of specialisation.

The Honours programme consists of an induction programme and four modules. The induction programme may involve a group exercise such as a departmental field trip as well as various orientation sessions.

Two compulsory modules cater for the theoretical and methodological foundations of the relevant disciplines, i.e. Sociology and Social Anthropology. A third compulsory module consists of the research project which is conducted under departmental supervision. The fourth module comprises two elective themes dealing with contemporary, relevant issues and themes in Sociology and/or Social Anthropology. The offering may vary from year to year.

- Module 1: Sociological/Social Anthropological theory
- Module 2: Sociological/Social Anthropological research
- Module 3: Research project, under supervision
- Module 4: Selected themes. Students choose TWO themes from areas such as: development studies; the sociology of work and innovation; HIV/AIDS and society; land, environment and society; culture, identity and gender; and religion.

### *Assessment*

Assessment is continuous, involving essays, seminar participation and examinations and students obtain a mark for every module completed. Students are also expected to participate actively in the intellectual life of the Department through, for instance, attendance at the weekly departmental seminar.

In cases where a student's average for the programme as a whole is borderline in terms of the class of the degree (for instance, the student has an average of 74%, just short of the 75% required for a *cum laude* pass) the Department may request the student to participate in an oral examination to determine the final mark.

*The research project*

The research project is examined by an internal examiner and moderated externally. Students choose their topics in consultation with the Department and work under the supervision of a member of the academic staff. The final project report is expected to be in the region of 40 1.5-spaced A4 pages (maximum 60), excluding references.

*Programme co-ordinators:*

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