

Module Details	
Module Title	Theories of Group Interaction
Module Code	SAC5015-B
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 5

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	24
Seminars	8
Directed Study	168

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims

Social interactions have been the focus of early interpretivist sociological theory. Max Weber studied meanings, their negotiation and role in social organisation. The Chicago School of Sociology deepened analytical insights, situated studies in institutional settings traditionally excluded from sociological consideration, and proposed new methodologies for doing research in naturalistic social environments borrowed from the discipline of anthropology.

In contemporary societies, analyses of social interactions take a new and innovative dimension due to the influence and impact of globalisation and related social processes that transcend borders, hierarchies and other social categories. While the focus of symbolic interactionism has been contained within situated social exchanges, limiting the overall explanatory potential of sociological interpretation on structure, current concern with definitions of power, ideology and representation constructed dialectically offer new opportunities for the analysis of social interactions. Theories of Group Interaction will examine conceptualisations of power within poststructuralist sociology in order to explore interactions within intersectional categories and relationships that rely upon interconnected and interdependent negotiation of meanings. In this process, we will explore issues around equality, global political power, identity and intersectionality, global social movements, community, representation and social cohesion.

- to understand the development of understandings of social interaction in early sociological theory.
- to explore the method of interactionist sociology and appreciate its value for challenging stereotypical societal perceptions and representations.
- to perceive how interactions that extend to the world of the dialectic construct ideological structures that exert power and authority.
- to conceptualise how sociological theory may deconstruct and challenge global structures of inequality and promote intersectional engagement in local and transnational politics

Outline Syllabus

Sociological theories of group interaction will be taught in a series of lectures starting from classical sociology and ending with poststructuralist understandings:

1. Max Weber, verstehen and capitalism
2. Status, culture and social stratification
3. Structures of global inequality
4. Interactions and social phenomena
5. Power and negotiation
6. Human rights, value and precarity
7. Equality, community and social cohesion

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Understand core principles/concepts of social and group interaction and be able to articulate a range of key theoretical approaches on the subject.
02	Understand the development of theoretical ideas on social and group interaction and its uses in the history of sociological thought.
03	Be able to analyse interactions in local and global settings and in dialectic discourse.
04	Be able to use interpretivist sociology in intersectional analyses and the promotion of social cohesion in local and interconnected contexts.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Learning theories of group interaction is facilitated in teaching of combined lectures and seminars. Lectures will provide detailed overviews of theories and introduction to related critical issues that influence contemporary debates and make sociology current and relevant. Seminars will support independent study and reflection upon the possibility and ways in which analyses of social interactions in the contemporary world can promote social cohesion.

The exam will consolidate understanding and knowledge of a range of theories on social interaction, while the critical reflective portfolio will allow you to gradually develop unique proposals about the usefulness and relevance of sociology in promoting cohesion through social interconnection and interdependence.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Long-Time Limited Online Examination	Long time-limited online examination (48 Hrs)	70%
Summative	Coursework - Portfolio/e-portfolio	Critical reflective portfolio 1500 words	30%

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.