

2010/11 Finalists

What this year' finalists have to say about Sociology

1. Teaching on my sociology course – what would you recommend to prospective students?

- Rebecca teaches a module on body modification its fab, James' module on risk is great and Jane's module on conspiracy and witchcraft is great too
- Do the readings
- Our lecturers approach to teaching their individual modules was full of enthusiasm and encouragement across all 3 years
- Jane's modules have always been very interesting and fun
- As long as you come with opinions and ready to learn then you will love it
- Any module you have an interest in
- Pick modules that are of particular interest to you and do not be afraid to ask for help if you need it, teaching staff are very helpful
- Always try and keep up with the key readings. Choose modules of interest to you, as you will find it easier and more enjoyable when it comes to essays
- Choose modules of interest to you1 it will go a long way when it comes to revision and essays! Always do the reading
- I would recommend choosing a module you enjoy, because all the lecturers are amazing at what they do and its good to learn from their specialised subjects
- Don't just pick a module at random, research to find out which one you will enjoy most
- Read up on the modules before you decide and choose the ones you will enjoy the most
- Read the recommended readings it gives you a basic grasp of the topic in question. Choose topics that you find interesting and stick with them
- Keep up with reading, get to know your lecturers
- Do your research to make sure you're interested in the subject as you will be studying it in depth for 3 years
- Keep up with reading
- Choose modules that interest you and attending lectures is of prime importance as the lectures give more information than just reviewing from the slides
- Try to ensure you keep up with the weekly readings when at uni
- Yes
- Interesting and informative course with friendly and knowledgeable tutors
- Pick modules that you think you will find interesting from the descriptions
- Start dissertation earlier
- Actually read, you will feel better for it
- Do the key readings and be prepared for seminars, you'll get the most out of it in the long run
- The sociology staff at Keele are amazing, they are very interested in their students and are always available for feedback, support, advice, etc. I love the small class sizes because you have one-to-one feedback
- The teaching has been good. Keele offers a good range of options I have enjoyed sociology of the body, witchcraft, conspiracy and risk society



K E E L E
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of humanities & social sciences
School of sociology & criminology

- Its an interesting course, the readings are interesting but best of all lecturers are passionate
- Yes was good course and overall has been interesting – keep up with readings
- Make sure it's a topic you're interested in
- To come with an open mind and pick topics with interest
- Keep up with all the key readings
- Do all the key readings and keep on top of revision
- Do the key reading to get a full understanding
- Make sure it's a topic you're interested in so you're more willing to put in the work
- Do our preparation for your own sake and everyone else in your tutorial
- Do the weekly readings it helps especially for tutorials and attend every lecture else you miss so much
- Read!
- Plan essays well in advance
- Do the readings, they do help, especially in lectures
- Read! Get in to the habit a.s.a.p
- Good combination of lectures, seminars and meetings with lecturers
- Read all readings suggested – give you a greater grasp. Choose modules which interest your and staff you enjoy being taught by eg. Dreamworlds, Conspiracy
- Read the basic background to the main sociologists – Simmel, Durkheim, Goffman etc. as these will be used throughout the course
- Teaching is a combination of lectures and tutorials which are both helpful, course is enjoyable, just stay organised and keep up with the readings – recommended course
- Enjoyable course – interesting modules
- Dividing

2. Assessment and feedback – what did you find most useful in developing your academic performance?

- Assessment and feedback can be confusing, however once explained by module leaders advances can be made
- Yes it identified my weaknesses so I could improve
- Module tutors are always approachable for feedback as well as supportive if you need help
- My improvement of essay writing
- Essay feedback was good
- I used to be a bit rubbish at essay writing – it wasn't the best and since taking sociology they have helped me to develop my skills and get the best marks possible
- One to one sessions with tutors
- I think the essay feedback was most helpful. I never got essay feedback from my other subject
- Feedback on essays is essential as it can highlight your strengths and weaknesses. Helps you to improve
- Feedback was of great help for future assessments I'd be lost if we didn't have it
- My supervisor set me deadlines for my dissertation and I would recommend sticking to them because it will really help in the long run
- Talking to lecturers about how to improve my work
- Reading the comments on essays are important for improvement and going to see your tutor for further feedback
- Lecturers always provide information on essays and are available to talk through essay feedback. I find this extremely helpful
- Meetings with lecturers
- Attending all lectures and seminars and doing the key readings each week. Also looking at essay feedback and developing from there
- Feedback was very good and helpful
- Reading comments of essay feedback as well as seeing tutors to receive more advice on performance
- Individual meetings are very useful. Exam and essay feedback are very useful in ensuring your writing style progresses
- Meetings
- Meetings with tutors
- Reading essay feedback and getting exam feedback is most useful
- KLE recommended readings
- Feedback – availability of office hours to discuss any problems
- Research methods module great help for dissertation
- Going to see my lecturers one-to-one during their office hours for advice on upcoming assignments as well as feedback on marked assignments
- The feedback on essays helped with my academic writing
- I met with my lecturers often and was able to get prompt feedback
- Meetings with tutors
- One to one meetings helped a lot
- Take note of all feedback and it will help you with future assessments
- Ensure you collect all feedback, and spend time understanding all lectures and reading – Ask for help!



K E E L E
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of humanities & social sciences
School of sociology & criminology

- One to one meetings are a good way to develop academic performance especially when getting assessment feedback
- Feedback was consistent and helpful unlike my other course
- Written feedback with suggestions for improvement
- Learn how to write a suitable essay
- One to one feedback
- The comments left by markers for essays
- Staff give helpful feedback, hopeful will extend to exams more
- Being able to meet up with the module leader
- Feedback for essays was useful as building blocks, semester meetings would be great!"
- Explaining where I went wrong on the mark sheet
- Generally prefer exams to essays but think a combination is ideal to suit all students, maybe just have 1005 exam in semester 2
- Essays – provided me with good feedback

3. Academic support – were the sociology teaching staff approachable and helpful?

- The sociology staff were always willing to help
- Yes
- Average
- Yes!!
- Yes
- Yes
- The staff are always there for when you need them and emails are answered straight away
- Yes, very
- Very helpful and easily approachable
- Extremely! Most will try and make as much of their time free for students to come and talk about anything
- Always! They were always there to be contacted, in or out of office hours
- All the staff and lecturers in sociology are wonderful – I feel like I could approach any of them for help and they always answer emails really promptly
- The majority of staff respond quickly to emails
- The sociology staff are friendly and there to help and answer any questions
- Lecturers were always helpful and approachable
- Very, individual meetings
- They are all very friendly and supportive
- Definitely
- Yes they were definitely approachable. The office hours were very useful
- The whole department as a whole is so friendly and the majority are available whenever you need them
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, the entire sociology department are always there to help, even the staff you are not familiar with
- Very, in most cases
- KLE is always useful
- Yes, responded to emails and appointments when needed
- Extremely approachable! Make sure you take advantage of office-hours!
- The staff were friendly and approachable
- Yes. Always ready to hear your opinions and give honest feedback
- Yes very much so, I am a student with dyslexia and was very pleased with support
- Yes, if I emailed with a problem they replied
- One-to-one tutoring
- Very approachable and helpful
- Yes they are all wonderful and very friendly and always willing to help
- Yes, very!
- Yes all staff were extremely approachable and considerate
- All staff approachable irrelevant of module or problems
- Yes they are all approachable
- Yes
- Yes!
- Yes
- Yes



KEELE
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of humanities & social sciences
School of sociology & criminology

- Always, both available face to face and email
- Very! Could approach in office hours or via email at any point over 3 years
- Very approachable and friendly. Always quick to respond to email, and they give a lot of time to students
- Yes – very friendly, dissertation supervisor was excellent
- Yes

4. Organisation and management of the course – was all the information you needed available, what did you find most useful?

- All information is supplied plenty in advance and there for if and when you need it
- Yes that was fine
- Very well organised with a flexible timetable structure
- Yes
- Yes
- The readings were all readily available for me to click and go straight away
- All info was made easily available
- Dissertation enhanced my research skills
- KLE was a great help in providing so many readings. Lecturers also helpful in providing books or online sources if you are struggling
- Yes, it was all easy to find and search through. KLE helped with all the information
- Having a lot of readings available on line is really useful and sociology is the best department for having all the resources available when you need them
- Electronic resources
- Lecturers were organised, putting information on the KLE quickly allowing me to use it
- Lecture notes being available on KLE was very helpful so I could print them off before lectures
- KLE was very good
- To me the lectures were the most important part of the course. The sociology lecturers were always passionate which made sessions very interesting
- It was very useful to have resources on KLE. Lecture notes made it possible to get very detailed notes as extra information could be concentrated on rather than the basic. Key readings were extremely useful
- Yes, KLE key readings and library books
- Yes, library
- Yes the handbook for modules were more than useful
- All sources available
- KLE is always useful
- Yes, handbook on KLE, digitalised readings were very helpful
- KLE is amazing! Lecturers put up lecture notes, readings, past exam papers, etc. use these tools!
- Most information was available on line or sent via email
- The digitised readings on line meant I did not have to go searching for books
- Yes although I did find that having to do a dissertation was hard as a dyslexic student and already doing another one
- Key readings on the KLE were always helpful
- Readings were available for you to look at straight away
- Use the library and if you have trouble accessing any resources don't be afraid to ask
- Yes the KLE is fantastic
- All the information I needed was available, and the key readings and further readings section on the KLE really enhances your understanding
- Best organisation within the university, administrator is amazing!
- KLE, module guides, reading packs, reading lists
- Need more teaching



K E E L E
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of humanities & social sciences
School of sociology & criminology

- Yes, the administrator keeps you on track!
- Module guides are useful, especially the ones that date each week
- KLE was great @ giving all you need, information was available and contact hours were very useful
- Well organised department
- Yes KLE folders and filing so much easier to navigate and office always available. Some journals not accessible though
- All the information is available on line. When the readings are readily available it is particularly useful
- Yes – digitised readings were very helpful, sociology has been much better than my other subject in this instance
- Yes – KLE really useful

5. Learning resources (KLE, Dissertation Packs, Supervision Record, Digitised Documents, Journals etc) – what was most beneficial for developing your understanding of sociology?

- KLE is great when it works! However the most useful resources are the module guidelines and journals. Module guidelines tell you all the key readings and journals are the key readings
- The dissertation packs
- Attending lectures and general reading
- Digitised documents, KLE and dissertation packs
- Digitised documents and journals helped to better understand each session
- KLE is useful, not enough journals on line
- The KLE is great, it has all your timetable there and everything you need
- KLE definitely. Also ability to have one to one sessions
- Good
- The dissertation pack was extremely helpful, especially for reminding you of things to include. KLE was of great use as it provided so much information
- All were beneficial! The electronic resources in particular were of great help!
- The dissertation pack was really good for giving help on all the different sections, but there is really no substitute for checking with our supervisor on a regular basis, their help is invaluable!
- Digitised documents, KLE
- Reading the module guides of the modules are helpful in getting started on what its all about
- The digitised readings and information packs are useful to start learning and developing the understanding of sociology
- I found that journals were the best for expanding my understanding of sociology
- Digitised documents
- I think digitised documents helped me most to develop my understanding and developing ideas as it helped me learn other perspectives
- All of them
- The KLE was most useful as it allowed me to have access to all the course details
- The digitised documents were very useful, made it easy to gain extra knowledge that wasn't in the lectures
- Digitised documents
- Wider knowledge of social thought
- Supervision and the readings enhance the content you learn in lectures
- KLE resources
- Tutor explanation helped, the availability of checklists provided
- Dissertation packs for deadline and layout
- KLE and digitised documents made me more organised and kept me on track
- Digitised documents were useful for seminars
- Yes. Always ready to hear your opinions and give honest feedback
- As previously said digitised readings and the KLE allows you to catch up on work in your own time
- They are key to helping me through each module
- Digitised readings helped a lot. I also found the dissertation guide really helped me plan
- Readings were available for you to look at straight away



K E E L E
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of humanities & social sciences
School of sociology & criminology



- KLE has everything you need
- A better understanding of society as a whole
- Good access to literature and the knowledge of how to search for journals
- Key readings were helpful so we didn't have to search for the texts ourselves
- Personally I found printing off the digitised reading and really making an effort to understand the material definitely improved my understanding of sociology
- Consistent and always up-to-date
- Checklists, explanation of library based dissertations
- Digitised documents, journals, teaching
- All of the forms being on line to print
- Digitised documents and KLE
- Journals, textbooks, KLE, readings
- The access to readings on KLE, this enabled me to do work at my leisure
- All amazing! Electronic articles on KLE most important and helpful
- Journals and digitised documents are useful. The KLE is not so good though, slow, outdated and complicated
- Dissertation packs, digitised readings etc were very helpful throughout the course
- Digitised documents really useful don't have to print etc.

6. Personal Development – what do you feel you have gained from the sociology course?

- I have developed my knowledge of the world, from inequalities to anxieties to cultural practices and superstition and their origin
- A sense of achievement
- Wider understanding with sociological perspective
- Wider knowledge of sociology and related schools of thought, and vastly improved analytical and research skills
- Writing skills, time management
- Writing skills, thinking skills, critical thinking
- I have learnt how to organise myself more successfully
- Knowledge and understanding and wider knowledge of sociology in general
- I am more conscious of the world around and what goes on around me
- Been able to build upon my confidence as students and staff are friendly and helpful. Really enjoyed the entire course!
- Sociology has broadened my outlook on society. It has been a pleasure to study
- I feel that I have made so many friends in sociology, as we really are a tight knit group. I will miss everyone so much1 I have become so much more confident in myself
- A better understanding of society
- I feel I have become more confident within my own abilities and learnt new skills
- I have a greater understanding of world events and now think objectively of events in the news, for example, and try to gain greater insight
- An enhanced understanding of sociological concepts
- New skills and knowledge related to sociology
- Self understanding of sociological processes and feel prepared for life
- Sociology has allowed me to gain a new pair of glasses on how to view society and people as a whole. I now have a bird's eye view
- As well as a broader sociological outlook I have grown more confident in my work and myself. I have learnt the importance of sociology but also research
- Broader knowledge and understanding of sociology
- I have gained knowledge on producing extensive theoretical arguments in an organised way
- An insight into the real world of social science
- Confidence, a greater awareness of self
- Able to write fluently and coherently, meet deadlines and be organised
- I have not only gained a degree but valuable life skills such as communication skills and acting in a professional manner
- An understanding of the sociological perspective and writing skills
- Many skills, research methods and being able to theorise well
- A wider knowledge of the world around me and a new way of thinking
- Much more aware of my surrounding culture and the impact it has on my everyday life
- KLE has everything you need
- Broadened my outlook on society
- A better understanding of the world around me and the knowledge of how to use it
- A better understanding of theory surrounding society



K E E L E
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of humanities & social sciences
School of sociology & criminology



- Definitely a better understanding of the in-depth awareness that surrounds me, eg. types of cultures that develop through a shared admiration towards something
- More critically aware of everything
- Improved writing and reading skill, an awareness of society
- Wider societal perspective
- An understanding of issues in society that I can apply to other fields
- An understanding of society from different perspectives and development of society from different perspectives and development of skills such as writing and analysing
- Interest in the functionality and processes of society
- Deeper knowledge and understanding of both the subject and personally
- I have loved sociology, it has broadened my perspective on the world and society around us, and allowed me to think bigger
- A deeper understanding of human behaviour. The ability to write in an academic context
- Definitely gained more confidence in writing my own research and also found key areas of interest to potentially develop further
- Greater understanding of sociology and a greater understanding about carrying out research

7. Overall satisfaction with sociology – what would you recommend to prospective students?

- I would recommend sociology to anyone, the first year was tough but the years following this had great option with great opportunity to learn, develop and gain an understanding of sociology and the world through the ages
- Yes
- Average / Good
- I would definitely recommend it. Sociology will blow your mind!
- 10 out of 10
- Do sociology its interesting
- Sociology is a must – you learn so much about the society around you
- Definitely take the course if you are passionate about sociology
- The best course in Keele by far! Sociology is very dynamic and interesting
- Definitely recommend taking sociology! Some say it is a ‘pointless’ course, but it actually covers so much that it can benefit all
- Definitely!
- TAKE SOCIOLOGY! If you are a human and want to know how society affects your everyday life, you need this subject! Aliens or animals need not apply!!!
- Engage with your subjects otherwise it will be boring!
- I am very satisfied with the overall course
- Very satisfied with course – extremely interesting. For prospective students, keep organised
- Definitely
- Work hard, keep up with the reading and you will get out of it what you put in
- Very good course
- Sociology in Keele has given me an irreplaceable three years!
- Very good department. Very interesting subject. I would definitely recommend this! Would suggest to take an interest before you arrive, read a few books, some aren’t as difficult as they sound
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- 7/10 satisfied
- I would fully recommend the course and to start think ahead about modules in advance
- Great department, administrator is great too!
- Yeah! Go for it! Sociology will develop your people skills aw well as academic skills
- The course was good and I would recommend it to anyone
- Yes, a very useful course with all staff very passionate about teaching
- Yes most likely
- If you’re interested in learning about how things impact your life and surroundings, sociology is for you
- Yes
- Yes in the second year take modules that interest you
- Taking modules that interest you – Brilliant choices – just a hard slog through the theories in 1st year
- A really good course – very interesting although hard work



K E E L E
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of humanities & social sciences
School of sociology & criminology

- I think sociology has affected me personally through a better understanding of my surroundings and if you have an interest in this subject then definitely pursue it!
- Good course, Great staff, Fantastic learning
- I would only recommend the course if you are dedicated, many of the module choices are interesting although some of the modules are not so
- Yes!
- All of it, modules are interesting and worth the time and the staff including admin are great
- Very enjoyable degree, enjoy the opportunity of doing my dissertation
- Yes!!
- Yes I would! A (mostly) interesting and enlightening course to take
- Very happy – looking back I wish it was a single honour! To other students the course is manageable – just stay organised
- Really interesting course – stay on top of the readings and time management

**Many thanks to all our 2011/12 graduating sociology students
for taking the time to provide us
with this information.**