

## SOCIOLOGY Access Course



### Aim

The study of society is intended to enable you to assess critically the world in which we live.

### Course Content

You will take several units of study:

#### Unit 1: Introduction to Sociology

This three credit unit will introduce you to the core concepts and major theoretical perspectives of Sociology. You will learn how sociological theory is applied to contemporary issues.

#### Unit 2: Sociology of Mass Media

You will consider how the media is organised, and what role it plays in the structure of society. Relevant theory will be evaluated, as well as media representation of social factors such as social class, gender, ethnicity, age and disability.

#### Unit 3: Sociology of Religion

In this three credit unit you will be introduced to key definitions and concepts of religion, and how major sociological perspectives can be used to analyse the role of religion. You will also consider the secularization thesis.

#### Unit 4: Sociology of Education

A three credit unit which focuses on the role of education from the major sociological perspectives. You will also analyse how social factors impact on educational attainment, and spend time identifying and evaluating key contemporary debates with reference to recent education reforms.

#### Unit 5: Sociology of Poverty

This unit will help you to understand definitions and core concepts in the study of poverty, to recognise sociological explanations of poverty and the different theoretical approaches to the reduction of poverty.

### Recommend Reading and Preparation

You should ensure that you are engaging with news and current events as they are presented in the mass media. In addition, you should approach your study of society with an open mind and be prepared to have your personal views challenged.

### Qualification Requirements in English and Maths

If you are aiming at progressing into higher education you will need to have English and Maths GCSEs at 4 – 9 for university entrance. If you do not already have these you will be enrolled as a part-time student on the Access course and you can take these alongside your Access course at no extra charge. You may take these in either the first or second year of your Access course. You may decide to take them both from your first year, so that you have a chance to re-take them if you do not achieve the required grades.

### Hours:

The course is available either full-time (approx. 12 hours per week over three days for one year) or part-time (approx. 6 hours per week over one day for two years).

### Examination Board

Laser Learning Awards

### Qualifications

You will need a Level 4 in English and Maths or be willing to gain these on the Access course

### When to Apply

You can apply at any time. Interviews are held from October to June and the course begins in September. At Interview we check that the course will suit your needs.

### Subjects

You can find out more about Access subject options by visiting our website at [www.stvincent.ac.uk](http://www.stvincent.ac.uk) under 'Higher Education' and 'Access to University'.

### Child Care

There is a nursery at St Vincent College for babies and young children up to four years old, run by YMCA Fairthorne Manor. This is free for those on benefits.

### Financial Support

Some support for your studies (eg books, stationery, travel) is available for most students on benefits.

### Advice and Guidance

You will be able to consult our Careers and Higher Education Manager for impartial advice about university or careers.

For start dates and further information, contact:

**St Vincent College, Mill Lane, Gosport PO12 4QA**

**Tel: 023 9258 8311**

**e-mail: [info@stvincent.ac.uk](mailto:info@stvincent.ac.uk)**

**Web: [www.stvincent.ac.uk](http://www.stvincent.ac.uk)**