

BA Honours with a Major in Sociology

The study of Sociology at the undergraduate level can be one of the most exciting experiences for a student. The advantage of studying family, marriage, education, religion, caste, economy, politics, or development is that everyone has some commonsensical idea about these institutions and phenomena. However, it is this advantage that becomes the greatest disadvantage, as students easily conclude that sociology is all about commonsense. Therefore, two of the main lessons for students at the undergraduate level at AUD are that Sociology is distinct from mere commonsense and that they need to question many commonly accepted premises about society.

Of the 96 credits required to get a BA Honours degree with a Major in Sociology, a student has to acquire a minimum of 48 credits (equivalent to 12 courses) in Sociology. These will include compulsory as well as optional courses.

The programme of BA Honours with a Major in Sociology will entail an overview of the concepts, theories, thinkers and methods in sociology. Thus some of the compulsory (core) papers in this programme will be: Understanding Sociological Concepts, Exploring Social Institutions, Foundational Thinkers in Sociology, Interface between Sociology and other Social Science Disciplines, Theoretical Schools in Sociology and Techniques of Doing Sociological Research. The programme will also have optional papers on a range of themes like: Understanding Popular Culture, Social Movements and State Responses, Law and Social Transformation in India, Studying Cities, or Globalization and its Discontents.

Teaching will take place in an interactive manner. Discussions and questions will be encouraged during lectures. Film screenings will be organised and the students will be required to review films by connecting them to sociological issues. Experts from academia, civil society, performing arts and media will be invited for regular panel discussions or lectures. Finally, some field visits will be conducted to provide direct experience of social reality. The evaluation system will be a combination of writing projects, poster making, presentations, Mid-Semester and End-Semester examinations.

While pursuing a Major in Sociology, a student will also be able to choose a number of courses from other disciplines such as Economics, English, Hindi, History and Psychology. This will expose the student to interdisciplinary studies at the undergraduate level itself.

As an extension of this a student in fact may want to pursue a Dual Major in Sociology and History or Sociology and Psychology. This would mean a fourth year of study, but with the benefit of graduating with two disciplines.

After doing a BA Honours with a Major in Sociology, a student would be well placed to pursue Masters programmes in Sociology as well as in related areas like Gender studies or Development studies at any University. These Masters programmes are also available at AUD. A student not wishing to pursue higher studies will be equipped for a career in the government and non-governmental organisations, and journalism and media agencies. Further information about Sociology Honours at AUD can be sought by writing to Dr Santosh Kr. Singh (santosh@aud.ac.in).