Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Social Anthropology Social Anthropology & Intensive Language (any available)
Final award *(exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations)*	BA ☐ MA ☒ BSc ☐ MSc ☐ Other … ☐ LLM ☐
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning ☐ On-campus ☒
Professional body accreditation *(if applicable)*	n/a
Academic year this specification was created	2016/17
Dates of any subsequent amendments	

II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

1. Students taking the MA in Social Anthropology will be expected to achieve:
2. A detailed introduction to the study of anthropological theory, covering both past and present core debates and issues.
3. A grounding in the study of the society and culture of at least one of the regions of Africa and Asia (and their diasporas).
4. A familiarity with contemporary trends and debates within anthropology and the production of ethnographic writing.
5. An understanding of the specificity of the ethnographic approach and an ability to engage with and use it.
6. In the two-year pathway, the student will also be provided with a near proficient ability in a language.

III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge	
1. Students will be expected to grasp key debates in social anthropology. 2. Students will develop their ability to reflect in a critical and informed manner on various processes which impact upon and permeate society and culture, with reference to ethnographic examples. 3. Students will be expected to grasp the broad global historical/political/cultural canvas against which anthropology is studied. 4. Students will develop a critical understanding of the relationship between ethnography and theory in the construction of anthropological knowledge and an understanding of the ways in which ethnographic and anthropological knowledge offers a specific set of viewpoints and methods.	
Typical Teaching Methods	**Typical Assessment Methods**
• Through attendance in all classes, independent and group study, and class preparation. • In some courses through non-assessed as well as assessed	• Through a combination of unseen examinations, long essays, book reviews, written course work and dissertation as required for the MA programme.

coursework. • Through in course lectures/ seminars and through coursework.	

Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills

1. Students will learn to become precise and cautious in their assessment of evidence and their encounters with knowledge, and will develop finely honed critical skills in reassessing evidence for themselves. .
2. Students will develop presentation skills as part of seminar and dissertation work.
3. Students will learn how to design a research project, set a timetable, understand the principles of fieldwork, and consider questions of ethics.
4. Students will learn how to gather, synthesise and assess large bodies of text and also how to re-present such a body of knowledge in a synthetic and analytical manner.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• Through courses which introduce information and ideas that need to be assessed critically and analysed in context. Students are encouraged not simply to summarise evidence and arguments but also develop their own assessments as to the relative value of different strategies/ arguments/ evidence. • Through independent dissertation and course work which entail selecting, designing and refining topics [with advice and assistance from tutors] and elaborating precise research questions/hypotheses. • Through the structure and content of courses of an interdisciplinary nature.	• Through unseen examinations. Long essays, course work and dissertation may also be used/ required

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills

1. Communicate effectively in writing, in academic English
2. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources including print and other forms of mass media
3. Listen to, discuss and present ideas introduced during seminars. Develop communication and interactive social group skills.
4. Practice research techniques in a variety of specialized research libraries and institutes.
5. Become prepared to undertake short field-based research.
6. In the two year intensive language pathway, to acquire/develop skills in a language to Effective Operational Proficiency level, i.e., being able to communicate in written and spoken medium in a contemporary language

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• Through the writing of long essays and dissertations. • Through regular seminar presentations.	• Through unseen examinations. Long essays, course work and dissertation may also be used/ required.

• Through seminar discussion. • Through independent work for essays/ dissertations. • Through independent work, departmental dissertation guidance notes and meetings, and meetings with supervisor. • Through required regular readings for weekly seminar discussions.	

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills

Students will be expected to learn to

1. Plan, organise and write masters' level essays and dissertations.
2. Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing.
3. Understand unconventional ideas.
4. Present (non–assessed) material orally.
5. Write and present convincing policy documents, project and business reports
6. Work effectively both alone and as part of a discussion group.
7. Work alone in a self-motivated fashion; take feedback and criticism positively and use it as springboard for effective improvement of their work.
8. Function as a student and researcher in a radically different environment.
9. Develop various IT skills relating to library research and to re- presentation of material; and relating to the production of small research projects. The precise skills developed in depth will vary according to how the individual student chooses to structure their dissertation work, but a broad introduction will be provided as part of the methodology course audited by all students.
10. Make effective applications (e.g. for funding, for internships).

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• Through preparation for seminars, writing of long essays and other course work, dissertation and examinations. • Through individual and /or joint seminar presentations and class participation. • Through preparation for seminars, through discussion in seminars, through correction of course work by tutors and through preparation of answers to exam questions. • Through the formation of study groups.	• Through unseen examinations. Long essays, course work and dissertations may also be used/ required.

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes

Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.

As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.

At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.

More information can be found on individual module pages.

MA Social Anthropology

	Dissertation
credits	60
module code	15PANC999
module title	Dissertation in Anthropology & Sociology
status	compulsory module

For students WITHOUT previous Anthropology degree:

	Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component
credits	30		0		30		60
module code	15PANC073		15PANH002		15PANC008		Anthropology & Sociology options* or options from the list of open school options
module title	Comparative Studies of Society and Culture	**+**	Ethnographic Research Methods	**+**	Theoretical Aproaches to Social Anthropology	**+**	
status	core module		compulsory module		compulsory module		guided option*

For students WITH previous Anthropology degree:

	Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component
credits	30		0		30		60
module code	15PANC073		15PANH002		Anthropology & Sociology options* or options from the list of open school options		Anthropology & Sociology options **or** relevant options from other department **or** language option
module title	Comparative Studies of Society and Culture	**+**	Ethnographic Research Methods	**+**		**+**	
status	core module		compulsory module		guided option*		guided option*

*List of modules (subject to availability)

Code	Title	Credits
Anthropology and Sociology		
15PANH009	African and Asian Cultures in Britain	15
15PANH010	African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World	15
15PANH053	Anthropological approaches to agriculture, food and nutrition	15
15PANH061	Anthropology of Globalisation (PG)	15
15PANH058	Anthropology of Human Rights (PG)	15
15PANH056	Anthropology of Law	15
15PANH028	Comparative Media Theory	15
15PANH062	Culture and Society of China	15
15PANH063	Culture and Society of East Africa	15
15PANH065	Culture and Society of Japan	15
15PANH064	Culture and Society of South Asia	15
15PANH066	Culture and Society of South East Asia	15
15PANH067	Culture and Society of Near and Middle East	15
15PANH068	Culture and Society of West Africa	15
15PANH002	Ethnographic Research Methods	15
15PANH022	Issues in Anthropology and Film	15
15PANH032	Issues in Mind, Culture and Psychiatry	15
15PANH024	Issues in the Anthropology of Gender	15
15PANH050	Media Production Skills	15
15PANH033	Perspectives On Development	15
15PANH055	Religions on the move: New Currents and Emerging Trends in Global Religion	15
15PANH027	Therapy and Culture	15
15PANH059	Tourism and Travel: A Global Perspective	15
Religions and Philosophies		
15PSRC162	Death and Religion	30
South Asia		
15PSAC291	Culture and Conflict in the Himalaya	30
South East Asia		
15PSEH011	Genders and Sexualities in South East Asian Film	15
15PSEH008	Post-crisis Thai Cinema (1997-2007)	15
15PSEH010	(Post) Colonialism and Otherness in South East Asia on Screen	15
Language modules:		

http://www.soas.ac.uk/languagecultures/courses/