

## PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc. Sociology degree is a strategic response to a need for critical research that seeks to document, assess and predict sociological factors that affect and are affected by social constructs, institutions and conditions. The programme is designed to build upon and advance participant's theoretical and applied knowledge of sociology and prepare them for careers at the tertiary or secondary school levels or in local, regional or international research, policy or advocacy organizations. This programme is geared towards advancing students into the doctorate in philosophy programme in sociology.

## DURATION OF PROGRAMME

Students can complete MSc Sociology in 18 months full-time and two and a half years part-time.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the programme will be open to persons who meet the following entry requirements:

- A Bachelor's degree or equivalent from a university or college acceptable to The University of the West Indies, with at least second class honours.
- Satisfactory completion of at least one undergraduate course in each of the following areas: Sociology, Sociological Theory, Research Methods, Caribbean Social Problems, and Caribbean History.
- Students with less than second class honours or without the requisite courses may be considered if:
  - They have at least three years of related academic or professional experience; and
  - They successfully complete an interview conducted by a designated faculty member(s) identified by the Coordinator of the taught Masters Programme in Sociology.

## PROGRAMME COST

Payable in Full or in four equal instalments.

**Tuition fee:** BDS\$ 20,000 (US\$10,000)

### University Registration Fees

These fees are as followed:

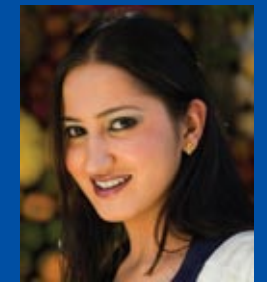
Amenities Fees	– BDS	\$ 700.00	(US \$350.00)
Guild Fees	– BDS	\$ 120.00	(US \$60.00)
ID Card (First year only)	– BDS	\$ 25.00	(US \$12.50)

University Registration Fees are subject to change in 2010/11.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### MSc. Sociology

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The University of the West Indies  
 Cave Hill Campus



**Masters Programme**  
*Faculty of Social Sciences*

**DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT,  
 SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK**



# MSc. Sociology

## 2010-2011



### TAUGHT HIGHER DEGREE PROGRAMMES

#### FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

Diploma in Education (Secondary)  
 MA Creative Arts  
 MA Cultural Studies  
 MA French Language and African & Caribbean Literatures in French  
 MA Heritage Studies  
 MA History  
 MA Linguistics  
 MA Post-Colonial Literatures in English  
 MA Spanish Language and Literature  
 MA Theology  
 Master in Education (MEd)

#### FACULTY OF LAW

Diploma/LL.M. Corporate and Commercial Law  
 Diploma/LL.M. Legislative Drafting  
 Diploma/LL.M. Public Law

#### FACULTY OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES

MSc. Electronic Commerce  
 MSc. Natural Resource and Environmental Management

#### FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

DM Anaesthesia and Intensive Care  
 MSc. and DM Emergency Medicine  
 Diploma, MSc., DM Family Medicine  
 DM General Surgery (Parts I and II)  
 Diploma in Health Service Management  
 DM Internal Medicine  
 DM Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
 DM Ophthalmology  
 DM Paediatrics  
 DM Psychiatry  
 Master in Public Health

#### CAVE HILL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Doctor of Business Administration  
 Executive Master in Business Administration  
 International Master in Business Administration  
 Master in International Events Management  
 MSc. Management offered in four specialisations:- Financial Management, Human Resource Management, International Management and Marketing)  
 MSc. Project Management and Evaluation  
 MSc. Tourism and Hospitality Management

#### FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Social Work  
 MSc. Applied Psychology  
 MSc. Banking and Finance  
 MSc. Construction Management  
 MSc. Counselling Psychology  
 MSc. Cricket Studies  
 MSc. e-Governance for Developing States  
 MSc. Financial and Business Economics  
 MSc. Integration Studies  
 MSc. International Management  
 MSc. International Trade Policy  
 MSc. Investments and Wealth Management  
 MSc. Labour and Employment Relations  
 MSc. Management offered in four specialisations:- Financial Management, Human Resource Management, International Management and Marketing)  
 MSc. Project Management and Evaluation  
 MSc. Tourism and Hospitality Management

LE0023 Oct 2009

*UWI also offers a range of MPhil and PhD programmes in a number of areas. Information on these as well as our application process, online application forms, and the documentation required can be found at:*

[www.cavehill.uwi.edu/gradstudies](http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/gradstudies)

**JOIN THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE**

# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To educate students on a range of “classic” and “contemporary” sociological theory, which includes an emphasis on Caribbean scholars and theorists;
- To teach the skills necessary to analyse, construct, and explicate theories as explanatory systems;
- To foster the development of skills necessary to collect, analyse, and interpret data, including basic and intermediate statistics and regression models, and correctly apply social science methods in the student's own research;
- To provide basic computer software skills in statistical packages for the social sciences;
- To develop the skills necessary to conduct sociological research and organise results competently in writing.
- To increase expertise in a particular area of specialisation, such as (but not limited to) criminology, race and ethnicity, development, health or human resource development.

*Please note that, for the academic year 2009-2010 only the course Race and Ethnicity will be offered.*

**The course of study comprises six components consisting of 39 credit hours including:**

- 3 Core Theory courses
- 2 Specialisation courses
- 3 Methodology courses
- 1 Elective
- Research Seminar
- Masters Research Paper or Internship

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

## CORE COURSES

There are three core courses required for the MSc Sociology degree. The core courses provide the foundation of knowledge for all MSc Sociology students.

### **Advanced Sociological Theory (3 Credits)**

This course seeks to convey a sense of the lineaments and genealogies of major theoretical approaches in contemporary sociology. It will explore various ways that sociologists and social theorists have contended with these approaches as they have confronted the issues related to sociological changes and inequality. The secondary aim of this course is to understand the processes by which social structures and social actors in the Caribbean and globally were created and transformed during the transition toward modernisation and globalisation.

### **Social Construction of Reality ( 3 Credits)**

Sociologists generally accept that reality is different for each individual. This course seeks to examine the interplay between individual perceptions of reality, identity, culture and social status. This course examines the theory that the way we present ourselves to and are perceived by others is shaped partly by our beliefs, interactions and life experiences. The aim of this course is to deepen understanding of the ways in which we shape and are shaped by the realities in which we live and the implications for oppressed and vulnerable groups.

### **Social Development, Policy & Planning (3 Credits)**

This course offers students the opportunity to analyse some of the most important social policy debates occurring in the Caribbean today from a social development perspective. The focus will be on examining the history leading up to current debates, the options being considered, the evidence and values being used in weighting options, and the discussion of future prospects. Comparisons with other countries will also be discussed. Contemporary interpretations of the idea of social development and social policy will be examined from several theoretical perspectives. This course seeks to extend these contemporary interpretations to existing social and political problems regionally and globally and to seek ways in which social policy and programming offers solutions to those problems. The primary aim of this course is to teach students to think critically about the interplay between development, governance and human rights. An interdisciplinary approach will be used to examine the different strategies of development. The course focuses on the practical tools for situation assessment, programme planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation within a rights-based conceptual framework.

## AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

The specialisation requirement is the completion of two courses in the specialisation areas. At this time only the Race and Ethnicity Studies specialisation will be offered in the MSc. Sociology programme, but additional specialisation areas (such as Development, Criminology and Social Policy and Planning) are being developed. Students are required to take two 3-credit hour graduate level courses toward their specialisation. A declaration of the student's area of specialisation must be submitted in writing to the programme coordinator and approved by the end of their first semester.

### **Race & Ethnicity Studies Specialisation (3 Credits)**

The course work includes the careful review of current theories about race, ethnicity, and ethnic relations. Students learn the theoretical fundamentals of classical and contemporary perspectives on race and ethnicity and the implications of racism and xenophobia on society.

### **Construction of Race in the Caribbean & Americas (3 Credits)**

In an increasingly diverse world and especially in a region such as the Caribbean, which is strongly characterised by its diverse racial and ethnic populations, the need arises to undertake in-depth and specific explorations into the racial and ethnic dynamics of this particular region. In this way one will be better able to grasp the complex models of identity, nationality and community that exists there. Conceptions of Race and Ethnicity are widely viewed as the fundamental building blocks of both group and self identity. The aim of this course is to better equip students with the analytical tools to discern how constructions of race shape behaviour, policy, systems and mobility in Caribbean society and the raise the level of discourse and analysis on race and ethnicity that presently takes place in academic and policy communities.

### **Race, Colonialism and Culture (3 Credits)**

This course examines ideas of race, colonialism and culture from a multidisciplinary perspective. It will also demonstrate that studying race is never just about race, as race itself is simultaneously constructed through intersections of gender, history, political economy, sexuality and the media. Critical attention will be paid to ideas about cultural sovereignty fashioned by the anti-colonial intelligentsia in structuring relations of power

and ideas about third world culture. Close attention will also be paid to the historico-philosophical bases of the idea of race and race as representation. The significance of race in international relations, popular culture, public policies, social analysis, identities, how this contributes to the plurality of race and racism lies at the heart of this course. It is expected that in the process of analysing multiple discourses of history, colonialism, identity and difference, culture and nature students will gain a greater appreciation of how race, like gender, has become one of the most naturalised discourses available in modern societies.

## METHODOLOGY COURSES

There are three methodology courses required for the masters degree.

- Introduction to Social Data Analysis
- Advanced Qualitative Research Design
- Advanced Quantitative Research Design

## ELECTIVES

The elective should be selected from graduate courses related to the student's research paper.

## MASTERS RESEARCH PAPER OR INTERNSHIP & RESEARCH SEMINAR

Following the completion of the taught courses, students are required to do either

(1) a research paper; or

(2) fulfill an internship at the end of which they are required to produce a report.

### **Research paper**

The main objective of the Applied Research Paper is to engage in research that addresses a problem or issue in Sociology. The paper will engage the candidate in applied research directly applicable to social development, policy, programming and/or their area of specialisation. Students will be expected to clearly define a problem or issue that the he/she or organization wishes to address or solve through the applied paper. The student will investigate and report past and current methods or practices used to solve the problem and explain the significance of the proposed research undertaking. Students will be given guidance throughout the stages of the research process and produce a research paper presentation of their topic. The student will develop an appropriate research programme incorporating empirical data gathering as well as a literature review highlighting the development of theory/conceptual frameworks. The final research paper (of 15,000 words) must include a literature review, methodology, results, discussion, conclusions, bibliographies and appendices.

### **Internship**

The internship is hosted externally by an organisation. The basic objective of this programme component is to provide the students with an opportunity to gain practical experience with reputable organisations in the Caribbean region or internationally. Often, students will be assigned one or two research projects and associated activities within the host organisation which will give them practical experience and allow them to apply what they have learnt in their courses. Students are required to complete a project report or paper of 10,000 words. The internships will last no longer than 3 months. Student performance will be assessed by both the host organisation supervisor and the MSc. Sociology programme supervisor.