

Master in
**APPLIED SOCIOLOGICAL
RESEARCH**

COURSE CATALOGUE FOR THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Master in Applied Sociological Research at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is awarded by Sorbonne Université Paris and delivered in English in Abu Dhabi.

The programme merges rigorous European academic traditions, research-oriented teachings with tailored insights for the UAE and our contemporary societies.



Applied Sociological Research

Programme Code: 4-MA-SORE

Level: Postgraduate

Credits and Duration: 120 credits taken over 4 semesters - 24 months full time.

Delivery Language: English

Evaluation: 100% continuous assessment and Master thesis

Learning Outcomes

PLO 1	Rigorously analyse social trends and issues through the integrated learned skills and knowledge attained.
PLO 2	Apply qualitative and quantitative techniques for effective research design, data collection and data analysis.
PLO 3	Appraise and apply sociological theories and methods to real world situations outside of an academic setting.
PLO 4	Prepare and present sociological knowledge using oral, written, and other technologically driven mediums.
PLO 5	Demonstrate an understanding of ethical considerations in sociological research, including issues related to participant consent, confidentiality, and the responsible conduct of research.
PLO 6	Develop a global and cultural awareness by examining the interconnections between local and global sociocultural phenomena, recognising the diversity of perspectives and experiences.

Postgraduate Academic calendar 2025-2026

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 25-31 Aug: Orientation week

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

- 1 Sep: Start of Semester 1
[Click here for first day of classes information](#)
- 4 Sep: Prophet Muhammad's Birthday

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- 5 Nov: Astrolabe Career Fair

DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

- 1 Dec: Commemoration Day
- 2-3 Dec: UAE National Day
- 11 Dec: SUAD Networking Night
- 15 Dec-11: Jan Winter Break
- 25 Dec: Christmas Day

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

- 1 Jan: New Year
- 12-21 Jan: Semester 1 exams
- 26 Jan: Start of Semester 2

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

- 11 Feb: Employability Day
- 16 Feb: Start of Holy Month of Ramadan

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 18-21 Mar: Eid Al Fitr
- 23 Mar- 5 Apr: Spring Break

APRIL

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

MAY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 1 May: Labor Day
- 10 May: End of classes
- 11-17 May: Revision Week
- 18-31 May: Semester 2 exams
- 26 May: Arafat's Day
- 27-29 May: Eid Al Adha

JUNE

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 17 June: Islamic New Year
- 18-29 June: Catch-up session
- 29 June: End of Academic Year for all undergraduate students

- Classes
- Academic Holiday
- University summer closure
- Integration week
- Revision Week
- Exam period

All National & Religious Holidays are tentative and subject to change

Programme Overview:

This programme is aimed at students and professionals who want to enlarge their skills in social research methods to develop an expertise, which is crucial today for a better understanding of the contemporary world. All public administrations, private corporations and nongovernmental organisations necessarily rely on social research in order to fulfill adequately their missions. They have to deal with social issues pertaining to demography, urbanism, education, media, health, family etc. Those are "social facts" which must be analysed and understood from the perspective of the various social sciences, and sociology in particular. One of the main challenges is to produce, gather and analyse accurate social data relating to these different social issues and problems. This is a required basis for any effective decision.

The courses in social research methods (both qualitative and quantitative) will enable students to become social data analysts. Analysing statistics (through specialised software), establishing surveys or conducting interviews are tools which are essential for this area of study. Interpreting data requires also a more general knowledge about the functioning of societies in their various dimensions. A good expert is someone who is mastering social research techniques and who is also capable of situating them in a larger interpretive framework.

Students will also be taught how to present their research and their results through reports and public presentations. They will have to write an essay dedicated to a topic involving accurate social research.

Although the programme mirrors the one given in Paris and is aimed at achieving in general technical and interpretive skills, it also focuses on some specific issues raised by the contemporary Emirati society. The UAE society has changed tremendously in the last decades and, if the economy has blossomed, it now faces specific new social issues. The social theory courses and the courses about Gulf Societies will help students to understand and to analyse those new social trends.

Programme Structure: The Master in Applied Sociological Research requires the successful completion of 120 ECTS comprising:

Programme Structure:

	UE	Course code	Course name	Credits	Hours
1 st Semester	UE1	MGMT-602	Economy and Society I	4	20
		SOCI-609	Theory and Concepts	4	20
		SOCI-511	Networks and Society I	4	20
	UE2	MGMT-551	Quantitative Methods I: Sampling Theory and Statistical Inference	4	20
		MGMT-552	Qualitative Methods I	4	20
		SOCI-504	Visual Sociology I	4	20
	UE3	RSCH-522	Social Research I	6	20

	UE	Course code	Course name	Credits	Hours
2 nd Semester	UE1	SOCI-501	Social Theory I	4	20
		IRH-521	Gulf Studies I	4	20
		SOCI-513	Social Stratification	4	20
	UE2	MGMT-551	Quantitative Methods II: Descriptive Statistics, Univariate and Bivariate Analysis	3	20
		MGMT-559	Quantitative Methods III: Statistical Database Management for Social Sciences	5	30
		MGMT-556	Digital Methods	3	20
	UE3	RSCH-518	Social Research II	7	20

Programme Structure:

	UE	Course code	Course name	Credits	Hours
3rd Semester	UE1	SOCI-502	Networks and Society II	4	20
		MGMT-603	Economy and Society II	4	20
		SOCI-608	Youth, Education and Society	4	20
	UE2	IT-503	Quantitative Methods IV: Regression Analysis	3	20
		SOCI-505	Qualitative Methods II	4	20
		MEDI-510	Visual Sociology II	4	20
	UE3	RSCH-524	Social Research III	7	20

	UE	Course code	Course name	Credits	Hours
4th Semester	UE1	SOCI-508	Social Theory II	3	20
		RSCH-541	Gulf Studies II	3	20
		SOCI-513	Sociology of Globalisation	3	20
	UE2	RSCH-519	Social Research IV: Master Thesis	21	20

Syllabi Courses

Master 1 - Semester 1

Course code and title	MGMT-602 – <i>Economy and Society I</i>
Instructor	Dr Philippe Steiner
Date	7 – 11 September 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course is an introduction to the field of economic sociology for graduate students. It aims to study the various forms through which relations between economic activity and other dimensions of social life (family, morals, religion, politics) are organised in different social contexts. The course includes a discussion of major texts in economic sociology that present essential issues for analysing the economy (economic actions and institutions, social embeddedness of the economy, social construction of the economy, capitalism, etc.). Investigating social mechanisms in the field of economics, this course covers concepts such as social networks, trade circuits, gift / counter-gift systems, and the link between morality and economic behaviour.</p>

Course code and title	MGMT-552 – <i>Qualitative Methods I</i>
Instructor	Dr Noemie Morize
Date	5 – 9 October 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course is to experiment and setup qualitative approach as a whole with its underlying philosophy of comprehensive sociology. Qualitative research provides complex textual descriptions of how people experience a given research issue by looking on the “human” side of the issue, that may be contradictory behaviours, beliefs, opinions, emotions, and relationships between individuals and groups. Several theories have influenced this approach, “grounded theory” or “thick description”, but also “interactionism”.</p> <p>Concretely, we broach how to design participant observation, in-depth interviews or focus groups and extended analysis of documents. While doing so, we inventory the principals and rules of these methods, and we evaluate their interests and biases. We will prepare some qualitative work to experience different methods and to construct our own material as basis of our analyses. Interpreting the material and then formulate analytical items is one of the principal goals. Different qualitative research software will be introduced and compared (NVivo and Provalis Research). We will also read qualitative research reports to make our minds clear about the way results may be presented: types, careers, systematic comparisons and thick descriptions are usually the outcome of investigations.</p>

Course code and title	SOCI-609 – <i>Theory and Concepts</i>
Instructor	Dr Elise Verley
Date	19 – 23 October 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course serves as a comprehensive exploration of classical theoretical texts that form the cornerstone of sociology. By fostering an understanding of sociological theories and concepts, we illuminate theory's role in constructing sociological knowledge. Our approach involves a critical examination of various theoretical frameworks, allowing for an assessment of their merits and limitations while unveiling underlying assumptions. Key concepts such as socialisation, deviance, culture, identity and social stratification will be studied and discussed. Emphasis will be placed on fostering students' ability to not only comprehend but also apply sociological theories in addressing pertinent social research questions. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to cultivate their critical thinking skills, enabling them to engage with sociological theories in a nuanced and analytical manner.</p>

Course code and title	MGMT-551 – Quantitative Methods I: Sampling Theory and Statistical Inference
Instructor	Dr Cyril Jayet
Date	2 – 6 November 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course introduces random sampling and to the probabilistic foundations of statistical analysis. It firstly describes different types of random sampling and presents the main concepts associated to random sampling: parameter, estimate, margins of errors, accuracy versus precision, and selection bias.</p> <p>Secondly, the course reviews some probability concepts necessary to understand sampling theory: basic probability computation, laws of probability (Binomial, Hypergeometric, and Normal), law of large numbers and central limit theorem.</p> <p>Finally, the course uses those concepts to present the different types of sampling (Simple, Stratified, Clustered Sampling and Unequal probabilities).</p> <p>Throughout the course, participants engage in a variety of exercises designed to apply concepts to real-world datasets.</p>

Course code and title	SOCI-504 – Visual Sociology I
Instructor	Dr Rejane Hamus-Vallee
Date	16 – 20 November 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course is an introduction to observation and the use of images in Social Research. Following Douglas Harper's distinction, this course will explore the two main types of Visual Sociology: "<i>Sociology of Images</i>" (the analysis of cultural images already taken by others) and "<i>Sociology with Images</i>" (the production of images created by the researcher).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "<i>Sociology of Images</i>": How do sociologists collect and analyse the content of images? How do they study media images and especially photographs displayed in newspapers? • "<i>Sociology with Images</i>": How do sociologists use Photography as a research tool during their fieldwork? Does the use of photography facilitate the interaction between participants and researcher? <p>We will address the fundamentals of these methods, providing examples of how to use them and arguing their benefits and potential challenges.</p>

Course code and title	MGMT-511 – <i>Networks and Society I</i>
Instructor	Prof Gianluca Manzo
Date	23 – 27 November 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course covers theoretical models that explain how social interdependence, i.e. the general mechanism that makes the behaviour of one actor dependent on the behaviour of another actor, contributes to translate microscopic behaviours into large-scale social dynamics.</p> <p>In particular, the course first includes a discussion of the sociological perspectives focusing on the micro-to-macro transition in connection with social interactions (namely, the approach now known as “analytical sociology”) and then, the course includes the detailed study of various simple formal models of macro-phenomena emerging from social interdependence, namely models of collective action, residential segregation, informational cascades, and opinion change.</p> <p>The second part of the course explains how the structure of social interactions can be modelled in different ways, and then, moves on to more complex models illustrating how those social interactions shape the emergence of social phenomena like the diffusion of innovations and infectious disease propagation.</p>

Course code and title	RSCH-522 – <i>Social Research I</i>
Instructor	Dr Renaud Debailly
Course format	Distributed along the semester
Credits	6
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course aims at enabling students to develop their research skills and at helping them to begin their research project - the most important assignments of the Master, completed at the end of the second year. We will, at first, focus on elaborating the research questions, which will be the first step of the research project for all the students. We will then describe the required steps to undertake social research, emphasising methodological issues such as time management, literature review issues, access to the fieldwork or the choice of the relevant research methods (qualitative and / or quantitative methods). In order to teach what is a social research and help students developing their own later on, we will focus during the first semester in building up collective sociological research on a chosen theme related to UAE society. One method of research will be more specifically explained and put into practice during this collective research: observation (participant or nonparticipant).</p>

Syllabi Courses

Master 1 - Semester 2

Course code and title	SOCI-513 – <i>Social Stratification</i>
Instructor	Dr Sebastien Mosbah Natanson
Date	18 – 22 January 2026
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course covers concepts and theories related to globalisation. It aims at introducing the phenomenon of globalisation from a sociological perspective. Firstly, understood as an economic phenomenon, globalisation encompasses a much broader variety of social phenomena.</p> <p>The first part of the course will look at concepts, theories, and history of globalisation. The second part of the course will be dedicated to case studies. We will more specifically examine what it means for the UAE to be a globalised society.</p>

Course code and title	SOCI-501 – <i>Social Theory I</i>
Instructor	Prof Pierre Demeulenaere
Date	1 – 5 February 2026
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	The aim of this course is to show that social facts are organised through social values and norms. All social life depends on values that tend to vary from one society to another, according to various cultural patterns. Therefore, any interpretation of social facts, in a given society, depends on the general organisation of the society and of its norms and values. It depends also on features of behaviours that do not vary culturally. There is a large body of literature that attempts to interpret the emergence, the change and variation of values and norms. The course will display the mechanisms responsible for the emergence of norms and for their variation. It will also show that given interpretation of data generally presupposes the reference to those general norms.

Course code and title	MGMT-551 – <i>Quantitative Methods II: Descriptive Statistics, Univariate and Bivariate Analysis</i>
Instructor	Christine Hecht
Date	7 – 13 April 2026
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	3
Contact hours	20
Course description	This course serves as an introduction to the fundamental concepts of univariate and bivariate statistics. Students will acquire the necessary skills to generate, explore, and interpret data obtained from surveys. Initially, the course covers essential indicators for sample description, including measures of central tendency and dispersion. Subsequently, bivariate analysis, specifically crosstabulations, is introduced. During the latter part of the course, students will be introduced to statistical laws and tests aimed at generalising sample results to the entire population. This includes discussions on confidence intervals, Chi-square tests, and other relevant statistical techniques. Throughout the course, these statistical concepts will be applied to analyse data from an international survey, namely the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP). By the conclusion of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to synthesise survey results effectively.

Course code and title	MGMT-559 – Quantitative Methods III: Statistical Database Management for Social Sciences
Instructor	Dr Marta Veljkovic
Date	26 – 30 April 2026
Course format	10-day mission
Credits	5
Contact hours	30
Course description	<p>This class serves as a continuation of the "Quantitative Methods II: Descriptive Statistics. Univariate and bivariate analysis" offered earlier in the semester (2). Designed as a practical exploration, it aims to deepen students' data analysis skills through hands-on experience with databases.</p> <p>Throughout the course, students will learn how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe a survey, examine the contents of a database and identify the population • organise and sort a database • merge databases (e.g. merge data from different survey waves) to compare the situation of respondents at 2 different points in time • create new variables and indicators • implement statistical analysis • recognise and / or select a specific population of analysis • focus attention on the representativeness (in cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys) • understand, interpret and discuss the results. <p>The course will primarily utilise data from the first two waves of the French version of the international and longitudinal Generations and Gender Survey conducted in France between 2005 and 2011. This dataset follows the same individuals interviewed three times over the specified timeframe (http://www.ggp-i.org/). Working on these two datasets, students will engage in practical exercises and real-world examples to reinforce learning outcomes. Emphasis will be placed on effectively presenting, interpreting, and critically analysing results.</p> <p>Given its integral role in students' methodological training, this course will be conducted in a computer-equipped classroom. Utilising robust data analysis software such as SAS or R, students will gain proficiency with tools widely employed in leading statistical institutes worldwide.</p>

Course code and title	MGMT-556 – <i>Digital Methods</i>
Instructor	Christine Hecht
Date	3 – 7 May 2026
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course covers the concepts and theories related to digital humanities and digital methods. It aims to present the methods dedicated to the analysis of digital activities. After having introduced the main tools in qualitative research, we will focus more specifically on data extracted from the web. Forums, blogs and social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Google+) are important sources for social researchers who have developed both methodological tools and conceptualisations of such data. The students will learn to extract, code, analyse different data. The course includes a discussion of the uses of data visualisation in social sciences.</p> <p>Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate their ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the benefits of textual data analysis to gain knowledge on one social issue / question • Assemble databases and corpus of textual data • Analyse textual data using sociological digital methods • Apply the digital method to their own research project (Master thesis) • Formulate research questions and interpret data collected on the web • Propose and design a research based on online activities

Course code and title	IRH-521 – <i>Gulf Studies I</i>
Instructor	Dr Laurence Louer
Date	17 – 21 May 2026
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course covers the concepts and theories related to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The course includes a discussion of the main historical, sociological and political dynamics of these countries. The course will include study of tribal dynamics in relation to state formation, of the place of religion in states and societies, of the ways in which oil industrialisation transformed states and societies, of the dynamics of mass-migration and of the international relations of the Gulf.</p>

Course code and title	RSCH-518 – <i>Social Research II</i>
Instructor	Dr Renaud Debailly
Course format	Distributed along the semester
Credits	7
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course aims at enabling student to develop their research skills and at helping them to begin their research project - the most important assignments of the Master. We will, at first, focus on elaborating the research questions, which will be the first step of the research project for all the students. We will then describe the required steps to undertake social research, emphasising methodological issues such as time management, literature review issues, access to the fieldwork or the choice of the relevant research methods (qualitative and / or quantitative methods). After doing one collective research during the first semester, students will develop their own research project during the second semester. Each step of the design of a research project will be seen in class and students will have to work actively on their research to present at the end of the semester a written proposal of research.</p>

Syllabi Courses

Master 2 - Semester 1

Course code and title	MGMT-603 – <i>Economy and Society II</i>
Instructor	Dr Philippe Steiner
Date	14 – 18 September 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course explores the profound impact of digital technologies on economic activities over the past three decades. Centered around Herbert Simon's concepts of 'attention' and 'the attention economy,' students analyse how digital advancements have reshaped work organisation, including attention dispersion, multitasking, and telecommuting. The course also examines the strategic role of marketing and advertising in capturing consumer attention through targeted ads and algorithms. Lastly, students explore how individuals cope with information overload to make informed decisions, drawing on economic and sociological research. Through theoretical insights and empirical analyses, students gain a comprehensive understanding of the transformative effects of digital technologies on economic and societal dynamics.</p>

Course code and title	SOCI-505 – <i>Qualitative Methods II</i>
Instructor	Dr Neomie Morize
Date	12 – 16 October 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course will come back to main theoretical issues on “family change in modern societies” to complete sociological knowledge of the students. Empirically we will look at different topics linked to the main family changes the UAE: low fertility rate, divorce, working mothers, family education of children, new challenges in schools etc. What is the discourse on these changes in private personal family life?</p> <p>We will go to several qualitative studies to gather the different research approaches performed: inductive method, discourse analysis, life course method, ideal-type analysis. We will look at different analytical styles, how to use the data collected and relate it to the research questions. Empirical work should be analysed in teamwork (2 students) with oral presentation.</p> <p>Several work sessions on material will be proposed.</p>

Course code and title	SOCI-608 – <i>Youth, Education and Society</i>
Instructor	Dr Elise Verley
Date	26 – 30 October 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course delves into the sociology of youth and young adulthood, offering insights into the social construction of childhood and youth to underscore its multifaceted nature. Through both theoretical exploration and empirical analysis, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the diverse positions, experiences, and challenges faced by young people in contemporary societies. Central to our examination is the concept of youth autonomy, which serves as a focal point in understanding the transition to adulthood. Special emphasis will be placed on exploring the dynamics of student youth and their engagement with the world of work and employment, illuminating prevailing youth norms through international and intergenerational perspectives."</p>

Course code and title	IT-503 – <i>Quantitative Methods IV: Regression Analysis</i>
Instructor	Dr Cyril Jayet
Date	9 – 13 November 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	3
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course introduces students to the fundamentals of regression analysis, a statistical method widely used in social sciences. Firstly, the course presents the classical linear regression model.</p> <p>Secondly, the course explores various extensions of the linear model such as incorporating non-linearities through quadratic effects, logarithms, and interaction terms.</p> <p>Finally, the course presents the generalised linear model, with a particular focus on logistic regression for handling categorical data. Through lectures, readings, and hands-on exercises, students will learn how to formulate research questions, choose appropriate regression models, interpret results, and communicate findings effectively.</p>

Course code and title	SOCI-502 – <i>Networks and Society II</i>
Instructor	Prof Gianluca Manzo
Date	16 – 20 November 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course covers tools and models that help to describe and explain how social interdependence, i.e. the general mechanism that makes the behaviour of one actor dependent on the behaviour of another actor, contributes to translate microscopic behaviours into large-scale social dynamics.</p> <p>In particular, the course first includes a presentation of fundamental measures and models of social networks, and then, the course includes the detailed study of models illustrating how the structure of those social interactions shapes the emergence of macroscopic social phenomena like the diffusion of innovations and infectious disease propagation.</p>

Course code and title	MEDI-510 – <i>Visual Sociology II</i>
Instructor	Dr Réjane Hamus-Vallée
Date	23 – 27 November 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	4
Contact hours	20
Course description	This course is an introduction to observation and the use of images in Social Research, this course in M2 intends to improve the knowledge and the skills in the use of such methods, especially focusing on Content Analysis and Photo-interview.

Course code and title	RSCH-524 – <i>Social Research III</i>
Instructor	Dr Renaud Debailly
Course format	Distributed along the semester
Credits	7
Contact hours	20
Course description	This course aims at enabling student to develop their research skills and help them to begin their Master thesis research. It is the most important assignments of the Master, completed at the end of the second year. To do so, this semester, the course will focus on two methods of research, useful in academia as in the professional world: focus group / collective interviews and web-based observation. After understanding the scientific goals and the methodology to use these methods, students will have to use one of these methods for their own research. Teamwork will be encouraged as collaboration is necessary for the collective interview method. The course will include the study of the methods available to students for their research project, especially qualitative methods.

Syllabi Courses

Master 2 - Semester 2

Course code and title	SOCI-513 – <i>Sociology of Globalisation</i>
Instructor	Dr Sébastien Mosbah Natanson
Date	25 – 29 January 2026
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	3
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>This course covers the concepts and theories related to globalisation. It aims at introducing the phenomenon of globalisation from a sociological perspective. Firstly, understood as an economic phenomenon, globalisation encompasses a much broader variety of social phenomena.</p> <p>The first part of the course will look at concepts, theories, and history of globalisation. The second part of the course will be dedicated to case studies. We will more specifically examine what it means for the UAE to be a globalised society.</p>

Course code and title	SOCI-508 – <i>Social Theory II</i>
Instructor	Prof Pierre Demeulenaere
Date	8 – 12 February 2025
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	3
Contact hours	20
Course description	<p>The aim of this course is to introduce to the strategy of social research as explanation of data collected from social facts. Data are not self-explanatory. We need a toolbox that allows us to make sense of them.</p> <p>The course will develop the main features of explanatory devices through the research of causal links, scenarios and mechanisms that permit us to interpret correlations between data. Data are typically collective data. However, they rest on micro-behaviours that trigger causal mechanisms. Behaviours behind the data reveal typical features of human behaviour: psychological attitudes, interests and cultural values and norms. The variety of those dimensions will be explored, and the relation between sociology, psychology and economics in order to interpret given social data.</p>

Course code and title	RSCH-541 – <i>Gulf Studies II</i>
Instructor	Dr Laurence Louer
Date	10 – 14 May 2026
Course format	1-week mission
Credits	3
Contact hours	20
Course description	This course includes a discussion of some of the main policy challenges in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The course will include study of the Gulf social contract and discuss its policy implications. It will also include the study of labor market reforms, economic reforms (fiscal reforms, privatisation, foreign direct investment, etc.), family policies and foreign policies.

Course code and title	RSCH-519 – <i>Social Research IV: Master Thesis</i>
Instructor	Dr Clio Chaveneau
Course format	Distributed along the semester
Credits	21
Contact hours	20
Course description	This course aims at enabling student to develop their research skills and guide students through the achievement of their Master thesis. Once their research questions decided and methodology chosen, the students will have to collect secondary and primary data to answer their question of research. Interviewing and surveying a sample of their population and analysing the information collected is a major step of the research and the course will provide them the information and tips necessary to ensure their success. The course will include study of relevant research papers to help students to master academia norms and methodologies. Finally, the course will tackle how to write and defend a Master thesis in social sciences.

Permanent Academic and Administrative Staff

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Head of Programme: Dr Clio Chaveneau
Academic Coordinator: Mrs Wafae Bisim

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