

University of Oxford

Honour School of Human Sciences Compulsory Course Handbook



2025–2027

Honour School of Human Sciences

Course handbook published in 2025

For students due to graduate in 2027

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Format of the Handbook

Anything printed in bold in this handbook (other than headings) has the status of a formal regulation.

Ordinary print is used for descriptive and explanatory matter.

Italics are used to give warning of particular points of which you should be aware.

This handbook is for students starting the Final Honour School of Human Sciences in Michaelmas Term 2025. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=hsofhumascie>

If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns contact Sarah-Jane White (contact details below).

The information in this handbook is accurate as at October 2025; however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of changes and students will be informed.

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Human Sciences Final Honour School! You will find the next two years both stimulating and fulfilling as you explore the diversity of ideas and issues contained within the Human Sciences degree. Building on the foundation that you gained during your first year, you now have the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of a number of significant intellectual concepts in the social and the biological sciences, as they relate to the human condition. This booklet is intended to be a helpful guide for your studies during the next two years, and you will have occasion to refer to it frequently. It should be read in conjunction with the Undergraduate Handbook for Human Sciences which you received at the start of the course. We hope you will find this booklet useful.

It is important to realise that because Human Sciences is an extremely wide-ranging degree, many of the lecture modules will only make sense if you consider them within the broader perspective of the entire course. While each module is designed to be essentially self-contained, they also interconnect with other modules within the same paper and even across papers. In order to make these connections, you must attend lectures as this is the only way to gain exposure to the full range of ideas presented in each paper. Your success in integrating concepts across a wide variety of disciplines will be rewarded when you come to write your dissertation and to sit your final public examinations.

About the lectures

In the following pages you will find most of the details of the lectures for the compulsory courses. Details of lectures not included in the booklet will either be handed out at the first lecture of the series or circulated ahead of time. Please note that some lecture courses listed in the handbook are provisional and that lecturers may slightly change the content of their lectures when the time comes. For details of Third Year Options, please refer to page 23 of this handbook.

Finally, please see termly lecture lists and timetables for the time and place of each lecture and check the Academic Administrator's weekly e-mails for changes to the lecture schedule.

About Tutorials

The number of tutorials varies from six to eight per paper depending on the paper. Arrangements for tutorials may vary from college to college.

Recommended Patterns of Teaching for the Core Papers for the Final Honour School of Human Sciences (Year 2)

Paper	Term	Dept/ Faculty		College	Comments
		Lectures	Practicals / Classes	Tutorials	<i>Figures in this table are in hours unless otherwise stated.</i>
[1.] Behaviour and its Evolution: Animal and Human	MT	6		6	
	HT	9			
	TT	6			
[2.] Human Genetics and Evolution	MT	8		6	
	HT	15			
	TT				
[3.] Human Ecology	MT	8		6	
	HT	16			
	TT				
[4.] Demography and Population	MT	8	8	8	8 tutorials includes 3 centrally organised quantitative tutorial classes
	HT	13			
	TT				
[5a.] Anthropological Analysis and Interpretation	MT	16		6	
	HT	16			
	TT				
[5b.] Sociological Theory	MT	8		6	
	HT	8			
	TT				
Note: Tutorial arrangements (including the term tutorials are given and the exact number) will vary from college to college.					

2. Course Aims and Intended Learning Outcomes

Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to:

- produce graduates competent to analyse the problems facing humankind as biological and social animals and to take this expertise into the professions and public life;
- teach all aspects of the course taking into account the recent significant advances in techniques, information and ideas in its component parts and to integrate these to form a holistic view of Human Sciences;
- enable students to draw upon key aspects of a number of disciplines to develop a multi-disciplinary understanding of problems within the Human Sciences and their application to issues of wider concern;
- provide opportunities for students to develop a wide range of intellectual and other skills transferable to many jobs and professions.

Programme Outcomes

Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of:

- the fundamental concepts, techniques, principles, and theories of Animal Behaviour and Evolution, Human Genetics, Human Ecology, Demography and Anthropological Analysis or Sociological Theory;
- the fundamental concepts, techniques, principles, and theories relevant to the student's chosen area of specialisation;
- the integration of biological and sociological/anthropological principles to analyse a topic of their own choice within the dissertation;
- the ethical, political, and cultural problems associated with humans as biological and social animals;
- the role of Human Scientists.

Skills and other attributes

Students will develop the ability:

- to read and evaluate original research articles;
- to approach all topics with an understanding of statistics and probability;
- to consider Human Sciences from an interdisciplinary point of view;
- to be able to carry out a quantitative analysis of demographic data;
- to present a written argument based on reading from a variety of sources;
- to plan and conduct a programme of original literature research from several disciplines.

3. Compulsory Papers

Paper 1 Behaviour and its Evolution

Course coordinator: Associate Professor Cyril Grueter

Aims and scope:

The theory of evolution is an astonishingly powerful unifying framework – probably the only one that can unite the separate strands of the Human Sciences degree. This paper discusses topics in modern evolutionary theory and behavioural biology, and explores how they can be applied to understand the evolution of our own species. Using multidisciplinary approaches, the paper will consider what human behaviour has in common with the behaviour of other species, and what is uniquely human.

Organisation:

Paper 1 comprises four lecture series, which aim to provide a fresh and multidisciplinary view of behaviour and its evolution that closely reflects the themes of the Human Sciences degree. The first lecture series is offered under the Final Honour School of Biology. The other three lecture series are tailored to second-year Human Sciences degree students. They are designed to complement components of the first series by covering related topics, including tool use, culture, cognition, communication, learning, development, collective behaviour, conflict, and aggression, in a human and non-human primate context. Students are expected to attend a total of 20 lectures during MT, HT, and TT.

Canvas: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295438>

Lecture Courses

I. Animal Behaviour

Timetable: HT (8 lectures)

Lecturers: Professor Theresa Burt de Perera (TB), Professor Geraldine Wright (GW), Professor Tommaso Pizzari (TP), Professor Ben Sheldon (BS) and Associate Professor Steve Portugal (SP) (all Department of Biology)

Hilary Term

1.	Tinbergen's legacy: the four questions	TB
2.	What is behaviour?	GW
3.	Gens and behaviour	BS
4.	Individual variation in behaviour	BS
5.	The fundamentals of learning	TB
6.	Animal collectives	SP
7.	Recognition	TP
8.	Social learning	SP
9.	Culture and Social Networks	SP

Please check Canvas for updates to lecture details and reading lists.

II. Human Evolution: Primatological Approaches

Timetable: MT (6 lectures)

Lecturer: Associate Professor Cyril Grueter

1. Life history theory
2. Mammalian and primate life history patterns
3. Evolution of human sexuality
4. Evolution of brain size
5. Social learning and cultural evolution
6. The primate roots of human cognition

III. Evolution and Human Behaviour

Timetable: TT (3 lectures)

Lecturer: Associate Professor Laura Fortunato

1. Evolutionary approaches to human behaviour I
2. Evolutionary approaches to human behaviour II
3. Case study

IV. Evolutionary Foundations of Sociality

Timetable: TT (3 lectures)

Lecturer: Associate Professor Cyril Grueter

1. Socioecology
2. Cooperation in human and primate societies
3. Evolutionary ecology of war and peace

Tutorial arrangements

Students should have SIX tutorials for Paper 1. It is recommended that students have a set of 2 tutorials based on topics introduced in *Lecture Course I: Animal behaviour*; 2 tutorials from the topics in *Lecture Course II: Human evolution: paleoanthropological and primatological approaches*, 1 tutorial on the material in *Lecture Course III: Evolution and human behaviour* and 1 tutorial on the material in *Lecture Course IV: Evolutionary foundations of sociality*

Paper 2 Human Genetics and Evolution

Course coordinators: Dr Teresa Street and Associate Professor Thomas Püschel

This course is concerned with the study of human genetics and evolution, including molecular medicine. These lectures will help you understand the scientific and societal implications of these rapidly advancing disciplines. Module I presents topics in medical and molecular genetics. Module II introduces genomics, including new topics relevant to the genetic basis of health and disease and represents technologies relevant to both Sections A and B of the FHS Exam paper. Module III introduces the study of Ancient DNA and what it can teach us about our genetic ancestry. Module IV presents the evolution of human diversity, based on inferences from fossils and genetics. Module II follows on from Module I, with more of a focus on insights from genomics.

Canvas: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295439>

Michaelmas Term

- I. Topics in Molecular and Medical Genetics (8 lectures in MT for Section A of the exam paper)**

Hilary Term

- II. Genomics (7 lectures in HT relevant to both Sections of exam paper)**
- III. Human Evolutionary Genetics (6 lectures in HT for Section B of the exam paper)**
- IV. Ancient DNA (2 lectures in HT relevant to both Sections of exam paper)**

Tutorial arrangements:

Students should plan to have six tutorials in paper two, ideally all being taken in the second year. These tutorials should aim to include three for molecular and medical genetics/genomics and three for evolutionary genetics/ancient DNA.

A reading list associated with the lectures can be found on Canvas.

I. Topics in Medical and Molecular Genetics

Timetable: 2nd year MT (8 Lectures)

Lecturers: Professor Dianne Newbury (DN) (Centre for Human Genetics), Dr Rebecca Powell Doherty (RPD) (Affiliate of the Institute of Human Sciences), and Dr Elaine Johnstone (EJ) (Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Science)

The aim of this module is to present examples of topics in medical and molecular genetics that are informed by genomic and post-genomic technologies.

Lecture 1: Medical genetics	DN
Lecture 2: -omics	DN
Lecture 3: Introduction to Immunology I	RPD
Lecture 4: Introduction to Immunology II	RPD
Lecture 5: Antigen Processing and Immune Dysfunction	RPD
Lecture 6: Molecular genetics of cancer	EJ
Lecture 7: Aetiology of cancer	EJ
Lecture 8: Genetic Resistance and Susceptibility to Infection and Disease	RPD

II. Genomics

Timetable: 2nd year HT (7 lectures)

Lecturer: Dr Teresa Street (TS) (Institute of Human Sciences) Associate Professor Rosalind Harding (RH) (Department of Biology) and Associate Professor Gavin Band (GB) (Centre for Human Genetics)

The aim of this module is to provide a big picture overview of how genomics is used in human molecular genetics.

Lecture 1: Overview of cutting-edge sequencing technologies and how they can be used to explore the human genome	TS
Lecture 2: Medical applications of genome sequencing technologies	TS
Lecture 3: Human Microbiome Project	TS
Lecture 4: Human Population Genomics I: What can we learn by taking a genomic perspective?	RH
Lecture 5: Human Population Genomics II: How do GWAS studies reveal the genetic/genomic basis of complex traits?	RH
Lecture 6: Understanding the genetics of complex traits I	GB
Lecture 7: Understanding the genetics of complex traits II	GB

III. Human Evolutionary Genetics

Timetable: 2nd year HT (6 lectures)

Lecturers: Associate Professor Thomas Püschel (TP) (Anthropology), and Associate Professor Rosalind Harding (RH) (Biology)

Lecture 1: Phylogeny and Comparative Genomics: What insights do these approaches reveal? RH

Lecture 2: Our ape ancestry: evidence from morphology, chromosomes, and molecules TP

Lecture 3: Genetic diversity in Modern Humans: How and why do we study genetic polymorphisms? RH

Lecture 4: Out of Africa: Diversity in the genus *Homo* across 2 million years. TP

Lecture 5: Selection and Adaptation: What are haplotypes, and what can we learn from them? TP

Lecture 6: Understanding the genetic basis of Past, Present, and Future human phenotypic variation TP

IV. Ancient DNA

Timetable : 2nd Year HT (2 lectures)

Lecturer: Professor Greger Larson (GL) (School of Archaeology)

Lecture 1: Insights into the human genome from Ancient DNA GL

Lecture 2: Meeting the relatives: What has admixture contributed to our genetic ancestry? GL

Paper 3 Human Ecology

Course coordinator: Associate Professor Lys Alcayna-Stevens, (ISCA)

This paper explores the ways in which humans are both shaped by their environments and also shape them, from both evolutionary and comparative perspectives. Changing patterns of human subsistence and reproduction, across prehistory and to the present day, influence human population size and distribution and the biological stresses they face. Most notable among these stresses are nutrition, infectious disease, and, more significant in recent history, non-infectious disease. The understanding of the interactive ways in which culture and behaviour can influence human biology is central to this paper. They are also central to an understanding of the effects humans have on the biosphere, and of the causes and consequences of recent anthropogenic climate change and biodiversity loss, and are therefore relevant to the question of future human sustainability.

Canvas: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295440>

I. Biocultural and Political Ecology

Timetable: 2nd Year MT (8 lectures)

Lecturers: Associate Professor Lys Alcayna-Stevens (LAS) (ISCA), Professor Andrew Gosler (AG) (IHS & EGI), Dr Sarah Edwards (SE) (OBG/IHS), Dr Karen Park (KP) (SAME and Cambridge) and Dr Lewis Daly (LD) (UCL)

L1.	Introduction to ethnobiology	AG & SE
L2.	Ethnoscience: Folk taxonomy and naming	AG
L3.	Linguistics and ethnobiology	KP
L4.	Political ecology and environmental justice	LAS
L5.	Ethnobotany of Amazonia	LD
L6.	Multispecies ethnography	LAS
L7.	The planetary	LAS
L8.	Ethics and the politics of ethnobiology	SE

III. Food Systems, Health and Environment

Timetable: 2nd year HT (8 lectures)

Lecturers: Dr Jessica Renzella (Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences) Dr Elisa Becker (EB) (Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences), , Dr Harriet Bartlett (HB) (Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, School of Geography and the Environment), Dr Hannah Forde (HF) (Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences), Dr Asha Kaur (AK) (Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences), Dr Keren Papier (KP) (Nuffield Department of Population Health), Dr Tamsin Blaxter (TB) (Oxford Martin School)

Lecture titles given below are provisional

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| L1. | Course introduction / Introduction to thinking in (food) systems | JR |
| L2. | The past: Ape in the Savannah – How the food environment shaped human behaviour and made us who we are | EB |
| L3. | Production: Global agricultural systems – who produces what, where, how, and why? | HB |
| L4. | Marketing: The commercial determinants of what we eat | HF |
| L5. | Consumption: Diets and noncommunicable diseases | KP |
| L6. | Consumption: Ape in the Grocery Store – How humans shaped their food environment and how we can help ourselves to live in it | EB |
| L7. | Unequal systems: Food poverty and inequity | AK |
| L8. | The future: Future food systems | TB |

II. Ecology of Disease

Timetable: 2nd Year HT (8 lectures)

Lecturers: To be confirmed

Lecture titles given below are provisional.

- | | |
|-----|---|
| L1. | Syndemics, development and inequality |
| L2. | Parasites and symbiosis |
| L3. | One Health, the Anthropocene, and emergence |
| L4. | Oncogenic disease, toxicity and the ‘chemosphere’ |
| L5. | Urban spread |
| L6. | Iatrogenesis |

- L7. Post-viral illness
- L8. Activism

Tutorial arrangements

Students should have SIX tutorials for paper 3.

It is recommended that students have at least 2 tutorials in each of the following: biocultural and political ecology (ideally in MT); food systems (ideally in HT); ecology of disease (ideally in HT); nutrition (ideally in HT)

Examination

This paper will be examined by an extended essay not exceeding 5,000 words (including references and footnotes but excluding bibliography) and a presentation. The essay will be chosen from a list of titles published by the Examiners on Monday of Week 1 of Trinity Term of their second year.

Candidates will be required to give a short presentation on the topic of the extended essay in Michaelmas Term of their Final year. The exact date of the presentation will be notified to students by Week 1 of Michaelmas Term.

Presentation Skills

There will be a lecture on presentation skills by Dr Lys Alcayna-Stevens in the 2nd year.

Paper 4 Demography and Population

Course Coordinator: Professor Ridhi Kashyap
(ridhi.kashyap@nuffield.ox.ac.uk) and Associate Professor Ewa Batyra
(ewa.batyra@sociology.ox.ac.uk)

Demography, the study of human populations is a wide-ranging subject. It has close ties with many cognate disciplines: including sociology, economics, and anthropology among the social sciences, as well as human biology. What unifies demography as a discipline is thus not a specific set of theories but a core of methodology. The quantitative methods used in demography are distinctive and well established; they are mostly accessible and straightforward, and do not require a knowledge of advanced statistics. With this toolkit of methods demographers go on to describe and analyse the great changes that are under way in the world today.

We are in the midst of a series of profound, inter-related demographic changes that are remaking the world's societies. Consider a few basic facts: since 1950 the world population has grown from 2.5 billion to over 8 billion, while mortality and fertility have both changed more over the same period than in all previous human history. In consequence, we are witnessing huge transformations in health, childbearing, international migration, and ageing. In this course we will investigate these aspects of demographic change and assess how they impact on different countries and regions.

This course deals with both demographic methods and substantive analyses. The MT lecture series 'Population Processes, Measures and Trends' will cover measures to describe and interpret population trends in mortality and health, fertility, migration, and population age structures. The concepts and measures that are introduced in MT will be used to describe and understand some key features of different aspects of population change that are occurring in the world in the HT lecture series 'Different Dimensions of Demographic Change'.

This two-part structure will be reflected in the examination as well. Part A of the exam will address questions related to the important demographic processes and phenomena that have occurred and are occurring in the world. In this section of the examination, students will be expected to write two essays to demonstrate knowledge of demographic trends and provide explanations for them. Part B will focus on techniques of measurements that demographers use to describe and interpret population trends and students will be expected to compute and interpret demographic quantities. This part of the exam will feature one compulsory question with multiple parts that expects students to

compute, interpret and explain demographic quantities. This will draw on materials introduced in the MT lecture series and practical classes.

Canvas: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295442>

ORLO Digitised Reading list for this course is also available.

<https://oxford.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/hui/lists/43214249970007026>

Course structure and Tutorials

In MT, there will be a 2-hour weekly session, which will include a mix of lecturing and practical classes where we will work through basic calculations pertaining to the concepts and measures introduced that week. For the practical part of each week, students are required to bring their laptops/devices with software to open a spreadsheet to do calculations.

Students will additionally attend three tutorial classes in small groups organized by the Institute of Human Sciences in Michaelmas Term which will help reinforce and practise concepts and measures introduced in the MT lecture series. Students will be expected to solve questions that relate to the measurement and interpretation of demographic trends in preparation for these tutorials. These tutorial classes will be centrally timetabled.

Lecture series related to part A of the exam will take place in HT. Students should plan to have five essay-based tutorials that cover substantive themes of the course.

Key texts for Part B:

The main methods of demographic analysis are covered in a number of good textbooks. We will draw on materials from (1) and (2) in the MT lecture series.

- 1) Wachter, K.W. 2014. *Essential Demographic Methods*, Harvard University Press.
- 2) Preston, S.H, P. Heuveline and M. Guillot. 2001. *Demography: Measuring and Modeling Population Processes*, Blackwell Publishers.

In addition to the two above, the following book is also helpful:

- 3) Rowland, Donald T. 2003. *Demographic Methods and Concepts*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

This is a very practical introduction to demographic analysis, with many exercises and examples. Chapters on the life table and population projections are especially useful as they provide step-by-step guides on these methods.

Additionally, lectures in both MT and HT will draw on articles from scientific

journals relevant for demography, which are listed on Canvas and available via the Bodleian's digitized reading lists, ORLO.

The web publication based in Oxford – <https://ourworldindata.org> – provides a number of very helpful summary articles about important demographic patterns and trends (e.g. population growth, life expectancy, fertility).

I. Population Processes, Measures and Trends

Timetable: 2nd year MT (7 lectures and classes, 3 additional tutorial classes)

Lecturer: Professor Ridhi Kashyap (RK) and Associate Professor Ewa Batyra (EB), Department of Sociology

Week 1 Population measures – crude birth rates, Lexis RK

Demography and demographic data sources.

Population growth and its components.

Demographic transition as a model of demographic development.

Class: The exponential growth model.

Week 2 Mortality and the life table RK

Changing dynamics of mortality as revealed by life table functions.

Class: The cohort life table and its functions.

Week 3 Mortality and the life table RK

Period and cohort life tables.

Class: Period life tables.

Week 4 Fertility and its measurement EB

Period and cohort fertility.

Mean age at childbearing.

Tempo and quantum effects.

Class: Fertility measures.

Week 5 Reproduction, intergenerational renewal and age structures EB

Reproduction, growth rates, and inter-generational replacement.

Age structures and ageing populations.

Class: Reproduction measures and age structures.

Week 6 Population Projections EB

Basic methodology for projecting populations: cohort-component model.

Issues of uncertainty in projections.

Class: Cohort component projection.

Week 7 Migration EB
 Measuring migration and its effect on population change.
 Replacement migration and homeostasis.
 Class: Population projections with migration.

II. Different Dimensions of Demographic Change

Timetable: 2nd year HT (13 lectures)

Lecturers: Professor Ridhi Kashyap (RK), Associate Professor Ewa Batyra (EB), Dr Joshua Wilde (JW), Professor Jennifer Dowd (JD), and Dr Morten Thomsen (MT)

Please note that the schedule and title of lectures is provisional.

Week 1
 Long-run theories of population and the demographic transition RK
 Economic development and population growth RK

Week 2
 Demographic Dividends JW
 Patterns and puzzles underlying human longevity RK

Week 3
 Biosocial perspectives on health and mortality JBD
 Mortality patterns in LMICs RK

Week 4
 Fertility transitions in LMICs EB
 Low fertility and its explanations EB

Week 5
 Gender and demography: sex selection and sex ratios RK
 The transition to adulthood and life course dynamics EB

Week 6
 Queer Demography MT
 Climate change and populations JW

Week 8
 International Migration EB

EITHER:

Paper 5(a) Anthropological Analysis and Interpretation

Course coordinator: Associate Professor Thomas Cousins (ISCA)

This paper builds on the basic understanding of fundamental ideas and methods in social and cultural anthropology which students acquired during the Prelim year, as illustrated by the work of classic authors and ethnographic studies from around the world. In the second and third years, lectures are offered in the fields of both social/cultural anthropology and sociology which are relevant to all students in the Human Sciences. Since students have only six tutorials in which to cover the whole paper, they must choose either social anthropology (Va) or sociology (Vb) as their core paper. However, should they wish to do so, they may take the other paper as one of their options.

The purpose of Paper 5(a) is to demonstrate the continuing relevance of the principles and approaches of social/cultural anthropology to the modern, post-colonial world and indeed to ‘ourselves’ as well as ‘others’. Standard ‘kinship anthropology’ is developed in the comparative study of the material and spatial forms of domestic life, gender relations, and today’s social patterns of human reproduction (including the possibilities of the new reproductive technologies). The social and cultural aspects of economic production, exchange, and consumption in the global context are considered along with questions of the nature of the ‘modern person’, language, religion, symbolism, ideology, education/literacy, ethnicity, nationalism, and conflict. History, both of the people studied and of the anthropologist’s own world, is presented as integral to an understanding of social relations and cultural traditions and the ways in which they may change.

Canvas: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/295602>

Michaelmas Term – 16 lectures

I. Comparing Cultures

Timetable: 2nd year MT (8 lectures plus 8 lectures in HT see III below)

Lecturers: Dr Elizabeth Ewart (EE), Professor Morgan Clarke (MC), Dr Miriam Driessen (MD), Associate Professor Zuzanna Olszewska (ZO), Associate Professor Thomas Cousins (TC), Professor Alpa Shah (AS), Professor Harvey Whitehouse (HW), and Dr Susan MacDougall (SM)

This is a two-term core course running across 16 weeks in Michaelmas and Hilary terms. In Michaelmas term, we provide introductions to a number of key themes and issues in social anthropology. In Hilary term the lectures expand on some of the issues covered during MT, building and advancing students' understandings of key areas within social anthropology. These lectures are aimed at MSc/MPhil Social Anthropology as well as 2nd year undergraduates in Archaeology & Anthropology and in Human Sciences

1.	Comparing cultures	EE
2.	Gender and personhood	ZO
3.	Exchange	MD
4.	Kinship	EE
5.	Colonialism and post-colonialism	DP
6.	Engaged Anthropology: Feminism	AS
7.	Religion and ritual	TBC
8.	Anthropological approaches to the Environment	TC

II. Theories and Approaches in Social Anthropology

Timetable: 2nd year MT (8 Lectures)

Lecturer: Associate Professor David Pratten (DP)

1.	Theories and approaches. Where does theory come from?	DP
2.	Deep history and the 'primitive'	DP
3.	Structure, function and fieldwork	DP
4.	From function to meaning	DP
5.	Interpretive anthropology and postmodernity	DP
6.	History: continuity vs. change	DP
7.	Practice: structure vs agency	DP
8.	Power – Dark anthropology?	DP

Hilary Term – 16 lectures

III. Comparing Cultures (cont.)

Timetable: 2nd year HT (8 Lectures)

Lecturers: Professor Inge Daniels (ID), Professor Harvey Whitehouse (HW), and Professor Alpa Shah (AS)

Anthropology of Religion

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|
| 1. | Material approaches to religion | ID |
| 2. | Cognitive approaches to ritual | HW |

Kinship and Social Reproduction

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 3. | New kinship and the new reproductive technologies | TBC |
| 4. | Kinship, globalisation and nation state | TBC |

Economic Anthropology

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|
| 5. | Money and markets | ID |
| 6. | Labour | ID |

Engaged Anthropology

- | | | |
|----|-----------|----|
| 7. | Marxism | AS |
| 8. | Anarchism | AS |

IV. Anthropology in the World

Convenor: Professor Alpa Shah (AS)

Timetable: 2nd year HT (8 Lectures)

Lecturers: Dr Susan MacDougall (SM), Professor Morgan Clarke (MC), Professor Alpa Shah (AS), Associate Professor Zuzanna Olszewska (ZO), Dr Elizabeth Ewart (EE), Dr Rosalie Allain (RA), and Dr Miriam Driessen (MD)

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Alternative spirituality | SM |
| 2. | Ethics and morality | MC |
| 3. | Human rights | AS |
| 4. | Emotion and affect | ZO |
| 5. | Ontology | EE |
| 6. | To be confirmed | TBC |
| 7. | Technology | RA |
| 8. | Corporations | MD |

Tutorials

Students should have six tutorials for this paper.

Suggested topics:

- The global and the local: culture vs. economics
- Local histories and the wider world
- Mass culture (including material culture) and identity
- Knowledge and the social relations of its transmissions; literacy and modern communications
- Hunter-gatherer societies and the idea of social evolution
- The imagination of nature and of the human being: history and cultural factors
- Domestic space: structure, social process, and change
- Sex and gender
- Language, ceremony, and creativity
- Reproductive technologies: the social context
- Religious ritual, experience, and power
- Spirit possession and healing
- Popular images of genetic science
- Persons, individuals, and the state
- Fieldwork and the distinctiveness of anthropological method

OR

Paper 5(b) Sociological Theory

Course coordinator: Professor Michael Biggs (Department of Sociology)

In this paper you will investigate a variety of theoretical perspectives on social life. Some perspectives examine how social structures are built up from individual action, whether driven by evolutionary psychology, decided by rational choice, or motivated by meaningful values. Others identify the emergent properties of social life, ranging from face-to-face interaction to social networks to systems of oppression. You will use these perspectives to investigate substantive problems. Why do social norms change? How do some groups manage to solve problems of collective action? What similarities exist between states and mafias? Throughout, you will learn how the insights of classical sociologists are being advanced in contemporary research.

Lectures are provided by Professor Michael Biggs.

Canvas: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/296216>

Introductory Reading

Bearman, Peter & Hedström, Peter (eds). 2009. *The Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology*

Jon Elster. 2007. *Explaining Social Behavior: More Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences*.

Randall Collins. 1994. *Four Sociological Traditions*.

Charles Taylor. 2004. *Modern Social Imaginaries*.

Up to date course information and the reading list can be found on the course Canvas page.

I. Theoretical Perspectives

Timetable: 2nd year MT (8 lectures)

Lecturer: Professor Michael Biggs (Department of Sociology)

1. Rational choice
2. Evolutionary psychology
3. Values and meaning
4. Interpersonal interaction
5. Social integration
6. Social networks
7. Systemic oppression; functionalism
8. Cultural evolution

II. Sociological Problems

Timetable: 2nd year HT (8 Lectures)

Lecturers: To be confirmed

1. Micro and macro
2. Strategic interactions, games and trust
3. Gender
4. Norms
5. Collective action
6. Collective groups: ethnicity, nationality and race
7. Governmentality and totalitarianism
8. Violence and protection

Tutorials

Students should have six tutorials for this paper.

4. Option Papers

The details of options currently being taken by 3rd year students are available on Canvas <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/296333>

List of Current Options

- Anthropological Analysis and Interpretation (if not taken as a core paper)
- Anthropology of a Selected Region: ONE of Japan; Lowland South America, Middle East
- Anthropology of Buddhism
- Anthropology of Mental Illness and Healing
- Biological Conservation
- Ethnobotany: Plants, People, Perspectives
- Gender Theories and Realities: Cross-Cultural Perspectives
- General Linguistics
- Geographies of Migration
- Medical Anthropology: Sensory Experience, the Sentient Body and Therapeutics
- Physical and Forensic Anthropology: An Introduction to Skeletal Remains
- Quantitative Methods
- Social Policy
- Sociological Theory (if not taken as a core paper)
- The Anthropology of Buddhism
- A range of Psychology options

PLEASE NOTE:

For students in the 2nd year the list of options above is for guidance only, as there is no guarantee that the same options will be given in 2025–2026, although many of them will be offered.

A list of options for 3rd years in 2025–2026 will be available at the beginning of Hilary Term 2025, and details of arrangements published on the 2nd year Canvas as this information becomes available.

You will be able to discuss your choice of options with Course Co-ordinators at an “Options Discussion Meeting” early in Hilary Term of your second year.

5. Regulations and Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of the Dissertation

Here we present the official regulations for the dissertation followed by some recommendations.

Dissertation Regulations

(a) Subject:

In the dissertation the candidate will be required to focus on material from within the Honour School, and must show knowledge of more than one of the basic approaches to the study of Human Sciences. The subject may, but need not, overlap any subject on which the candidate offers papers. Candidates are warned that they should avoid repetition in papers of material used in their dissertation and that substantial repetition may be penalised.

All candidates shall submit for approval to the Chair of the Human Sciences Teaching Committee, c/o the Academic Administrator, Institute of Human Sciences, the title they propose together with:

- (i) an explanation of the subject in about 100 words explicitly mentioning the two or more basic approaches to the study of Human Sciences that will be incorporated in the dissertation.
- (ii) a letter of approval from their tutor *and* the name(s) of the advisor(s) who will supervise the dissertation.

This should not be later than noon on Monday of Week 1 of Trinity Term of the year before that in which the candidate is to be examined.

The Chair of the Teaching Committee, in consultation with the Chair of Examiners and other Senior Members if necessary, shall as soon as possible decide whether or not to approve the title and shall advise the candidate. No decision shall be deferred beyond the end of eighth week of the relevant Trinity Term.

Proposals to change the title of the dissertation may be made in exceptional circumstances and will be considered by the Chair of the Teaching Committee until the first day of Hilary Full Term of the year in which the student is to be examined, or only by the Chair of Examiners thereafter but not later than the last day of the same term. Proposals to change the title of the dissertation should be made through the candidate's

college via the Academic Administrator, Institute of Human Sciences, The Pauling Centre, 58a Banbury Road.

(b) *Authorship and Origin:*

The dissertation must be the candidate's own work. Tutors may, however, discuss with candidates the proposed field of study, the sources available, and the method of presentation. They may also read and comment on a first draft. Every candidate shall submit a certificate to the effect that the thesis is their own work and that it has not already been submitted, wholly or substantially, for another Honour School or degree of this University, or for a degree of any other institution. No dissertation shall, however, be ineligible because it has been or is being submitted for any prize of this University.

(c) *Length and Format:*

No dissertation shall exceed 10,000 words; no person or body shall have authority to permit any excess. Candidates may include appendices which will not count towards the word limit. However the examiners are not bound to read the appendices and they shall not be taken into consideration when marking the dissertation. There shall be a select bibliography or a list of sources; this shall not be included in the word count. Each dissertation shall be prefaced by an abstract of not more than 350 words which shall not be included in the overall word count.

(d) *Submissions of Dissertation:*

Every candidate shall submit an electronic copy of the dissertation through the University-approved online assessment platform, not later than noon on Friday of the week preceding Trinity Full Term of the final year. Only the file submitted via the University-approved online assessment platform shall constitute a valid submission; no additional hard copy may be submitted, for any purpose.

(e) *Resubmission of Dissertation:*

Dissertations previously submitted for the Honour School of Human Sciences may be resubmitted. No dissertation will be accepted if it has already been submitted, wholly or substantially, for another Honour School or degree of this University, or for a degree of any other institution.

Guidelines and Recommendations from the Teaching Committee for Human Sciences

Synopsis

Your dissertation synopsis, which must be typed, should not exceed 100 words. It should outline the problem which you are investigating and the materials you will use. Candidates should pay particular attention to the statement in the examination decrees and regulations asking candidates to “focus on material from within the Honour School” and to “show knowledge of more than one of the basic approaches to the study of Human Sciences” (see above).

How to Choose a Topic

Decide whether your dissertation will be based on:

A. Reading only OR

B. Reading and individual research

The reading and individual research option may present difficulties in so far as it may require data analysis and skills for the collection of data which may take time. In addition, it is essential to ensure that the materials on which you wish to work will actually be available to you, not just ‘promised’. Despite these caveats, however, this approach may enable you to show your potential as you may be considering the possibility of doing further research, after your degree. Remember that you can get advice from people in the university if and when you embark on any data collection and analysis. No formal training in research is expected although the Institute provides a series of research methods workshops in Trinity Term of the second year. You may find it useful to check Departmental websites and the main University website: <http://www.ox.ac.uk>

The Topic

You must choose a topic that is within the breadth of the Human Sciences syllabus. In particular, our examiners are not qualified to assess those exciting areas which fall outside the general subject areas we teach. The topic must lend itself to a multi-disciplinary approach, i.e. combining at least two distinctly different approaches. And, the subject must be treated in a scientific manner, in as objective a fashion as possible, and not as a narrative or as ‘story-telling’. Look at past dissertations as a guide to the variety of topics and approaches but do not take any of them as a firm precedent. Try to decide for yourself whether they successfully achieve a synthetic approach, or have tried to do the impossible. The best dissertations present both biological and social aspects of a topic. For example, it would be unwise to concentrate on the gene therapy of a disease which does not have major social implications, or to write a dissertation on any purely sociological or social anthropological issue that

does not have interest from another viewpoint. Be assured that many have successfully managed to integrate and synthesise differing approaches with excellent results.

Supervision and Advice

It may be an advantage to choose a topic, an aspect of which is being researched by someone in the university. Human Scientists should make themselves aware of the research that is going on in Oxford. Don't worry if it turns out that you have chosen the same topic as someone else. It is likely that your approaches will vary considerably.

You should discuss the possible topic of your dissertation in the first instance with your Director of Studies. If your Director of Studies does not feel qualified to give detailed advice, they will put you in touch with a potential advisor more familiar with the area you have chosen who will advise on sources and presentation and assist with a bibliography. The total amount of assistance should be equivalent to no more than eight tutorials even if you have more than one supervisor. Advisors may read and comment on a first draft. However, you have to write the finished version on your own, so make sure you allow plenty of time for this stage (i.e. do not wait till one week before the deadline to show your supervisor(s) your first draft). You must not exceed 10,000 words, excluding the bibliography. You may discover that this is a problem but you will find the exercise of pruning is a valuable one, encouraging clarity and precision which you should be aiming for in any case.

Make sure your dissertation addresses a clear question. Explain in your conclusion how the material you have marshalled addresses that question, and to what extent it answers it. Be critical about kinds of evidence and what they can and cannot show. Explain how your chosen disciplines work together or exist in creative tension, as the case may be. You need to refer to and build upon standard references on the topic you have chosen, but you do not have space for long summaries of the literature. You should strive to combine and make connections that others have not noticed.

You should note that the examiners will look for the ability to find and marshal evidence, the ability to argue logically and clearly, the ability to express yourself in clear simple English, and the ability to connect different aspects set in a wider context and to reach a balanced conclusion.

Dissertations Involving Research with Human Participants and/or Travel

If your dissertation will involve research with human participants (including interviews and surveys) you must complete a CUREC 1A form and submit this for

approval through the academic administrator **BEFORE** beginning your research. If you are travelling overseas you must complete a Travel Evaluation form and, if appropriate, a Risk Assessment Form. Again these must be approved **BEFORE** you travel. Please allow **AT LEAST SIX WEEKS** for travel and ethics approval. Further advice on ethics approval and travel and risk assessment, including links the appropriate forms can be found at <http://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/about-us/safety-fieldwork-and-ethics/>

Timetable for Dissertation

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Late Hilary Term or Early Trinity Term | Lecture/Presentation on the dissertation for all second years |
| 2. Trinity Term, 2nd year (week 0) | Discuss ideas for a topic with your Director of Studies and other members of staff within the subject areas you are considering. |
| 3. Trinity Term, 2nd year (week 0) | Submit a brief draft title with 100 word synopsis to Director of Studies for approval. |
| 4. Trinity Term, 2nd year (week 0) | Discuss with your Director of Studies who might act as your dissertation supervisor |
| 5. Trinity Term, 2nd year
(By 12 noon on Monday of week 1) | Submit title of dissertation with 100-word synopsis, and name of your 'Advisor' signed by your Director of Studies, to Academic Administrator |

N.B. You must submit your title and synopsis and you must state whether your dissertation will involve research with human participants and/or fieldwork involving travel. You must also state which different Human Science approaches or disciplines you will be using.

*If your research will involve human participants you must complete a **CUREC IA** form. If you are carrying out fieldwork for your dissertation you must complete a risk assessment form and a Travel Evaluation form found at <http://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/about-us/safety-fieldwork-and-ethics/>*

SUBMIT TITLE, SYNOPSIS, plus name of advisor, FORM (both signed by your Director of Studies), to: The Chairman of the Teaching Committee for Human Sciences, c/o The Academic Administrator, Pauling Centre for Human Sciences

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. End of Hilary Term, 3 rd year | If you wish to make any changes to your dissertation title and synopsis you must seek approval BEFORE the end of Hilary Term of the 3 rd year by e-mailing your new title and synopsis to the Academic Administrator |
|---|--|

7. **Trinity Term 12 noon on Friday of Week 0 , 3rd year** Submit your dissertation to the Submissions site.

Please note that late submission of a Dissertation may incur an academic penalty as set out in the Examination Conventions and a fine.

Order of Contents

(N.B. Sections (i), (ii), (iii), (vii), and (viii) do not count towards the word limit)

After the title page there should normally be:

- (i) A table of contents showing, in sequence, with page numbers, the subdivisions of the thesis. Titles of chapters and appendices should be given; titles of subsections of chapters may be given.
- (ii) A list of abbreviations, cue-titles, symbols, etc.
- (iii) An abstract of not more than 350 words.
- (iv) A brief introduction in which the examiner's attention is drawn to the aims and broad argument(s) of the work and in which any relevant points about sources and obligations to the work of other scholars are made.
- (v) The body of the dissertation which should be divided into sections each with a clear descriptive heading.
- (vi) A conclusion, consisting of a few hundred words, which summarises the findings and briefly explores their implications.
- (vii) Any appendices, which do not count towards the word limit (see note below).
- (viii) List of references.

It is important to omit nothing from the list of references which has been important in the production of the dissertation, including any material taken from the web. Works should be listed alphabetically by surname of author (see below for form of references). It is a grave error to cite authors in the text without including them in the list of references. This attracts suspicion that the citation forms part of a passage copied from an unacknowledged source, in other words plagiarism. This may include re-writing material in your own words. If you wish to refer to an author whose work you have not read, you must give the source from which you have taken the information.

PLEASE NOTE:

The University has the right to use software, and routinely does so, in order to screen submitted work for matches either to published sources or to other submitted work.

Work submitted for assessment and open-book exam responses may be screened for matches either to published sources or to other submitted work. Any matches might indicate plagiarism or collusion.

Although you are permitted to use electronic resources in academic work, remember that the plagiarism regulations apply to online material and other digital material just as much as they do to printed material.

Guidance about the use of source materials and the preparation of written work is given in departmental handbooks (see below for details) and is explained by tutors and supervisors. If you are unsure how to take notes, use web-sourced material or what is acceptable practice when writing your work, please ask for advice.

If examiners believe that submitted material may be plagiarised they will refer the matter to the Proctors' Office. The result for the assessment (and any other elements for the same assessment unit) will be pended while an investigation is carried out (which can include an interview with the student). If the Proctors consider that a breach of the disciplinary regulations has occurred, they can determine the penalty themselves in suitable cases or refer the matter to the Student Disciplinary Panel (which can in the most serious cases expel the student).

Student Handbook Section 7.7 (see

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/student-handbook>)

Your attention is drawn to the university's guidelines on plagiarism at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>

Further advice on academic good practice and referencing can be found at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills>

Footnotes

If you use footnotes at all (except for references), they should be as few and as brief as possible (they count towards the overall word-limit). Avoid using footnotes as a device for incorporating non-essential material. Footnotes should be printed, single-spaced, at the foot of the page. Footnote numbers should be superscript (not bracketed) and run in a continuous sequence through the dissertation.

Appendices

These should be used only to convey essential data which cannot be elegantly subsumed within the body of the text. Such material includes: catalogues of material evidence, tables of experimental results, and original quotations from a foreign-language source. They should not be used as a place to express views about questions which are not material to the dissertation.

Diagrams, tables of figures and illustrations

Diagrams, tables of figures and illustrations do not count towards the word count but there should not normally be more than a combined total of 6 diagrams, tables and illustrations and an absolute combined maximum of 10 diagrams, tables and illustrations in a dissertation. Tables and diagrams should not be used as a means to circumvent the word limit and examiners will assess the appropriateness of their use.

References or Bibliography

When a reference is given for a quotation or for a viewpoint or item of information it must be precise. But judgment needs to be exercised as to when a reference is required; statements of fact which no reader would question do not need to be supported by references. It is recommended that references be given in the following manner.

References should be given in the text by author's name and year of publication (with page reference). For example: Hendry (1998: 22). All works referred to in the text must be listed in full at the end of the text, in alphabetical order by author's name. These references should take the following form:

Books

Eveleth, P.B. & Tanner, J. 1990. *World Wide Variation in Human Growth*. London: C.U.P.

Contributions to books

Strulik, S. 2008. 'Engendering Local Democracy Research: Panchayati Raj and Changing Gender Relations in India' in D.N. Gellner & K. Hachhethu (eds) *Local Democracy in South Asia: Microprocesses of Democratization in Nepal and its Neighbours*, pp. 350–379. Delhi: Sage.

Journal articles

Aiello, L. and Dunbar, R. 1993. 'Neocortex Size, Group Size and the Evolution of Language', *Current Anthropology* v.34. pp 184–193.

So far as is possible, try to avoid citing X via Y. If X is important enough to quote in support of your argument, then X is important enough for you to read for yourself. The only situation in which citing X via Y is acceptable is if X is some historical manuscript or unpublished source or is otherwise not available in the Bodleian.

Further information on referencing systems can be found in the Bodleian Library guide on referencing styles at <http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/reference-management/referencing-styles>

The Harvard referencing system is the style most commonly used in the Sciences and is the system that is preferred by examiners. Whichever system you choose for laying out references it is essential that the references be complete, that the system chosen is applied *consistently and systematically*, and that the references be given in alphabetical order.

Submission of your Dissertation

Presentation: Dissertations should be typed double-spaced on one side of A4 paper. The quality of the word-processing need not be sophisticated but the dissertation must be presentable.

Identification: The candidate number and the title should appear on the front cover in fairly large type. You should NOT put your name or college anywhere on your dissertation. Please do not include acknowledgements (of supervisors, etc.) which could compromise the anonymity of your dissertation.

Submission: Your dissertation must be submitted to the University-approved online assessment platform no later than Friday, 12 midday, of 0th week of Trinity Term of your Final Year. Please note that late submission of any dissertation may incur an academic penalty.

Enjoy your project. You will be absorbed by whatever you choose, and each year, the examiners are impressed by the breadth and the depth of learning and originality which most dissertations show. The examiners always learn something new from the dissertations and regularly consider some of them to be of publishable quality. Candidates and examiners usually feel that the dissertations are the highlight of the course and show very well how the components of the Human Sciences degree can be brought together to understand issues of human origins, diversity, and behaviour.

6. Examination Regulations 2025–6

The Honour School is divided into two sections. All candidates will be required to offer papers: 1, 2, 3 (examined by extended essay and a presentation), 4, 5(a) or 5(b), and a dissertation (paper 6) and two option papers (7 and 8):

- (1) Behaviour and its Evolution
- (2) Human Genetics and Evolution
- (3) Human Ecology
- (4) Demography and Population

The examiners will permit the use of any hand-held pocket calculator subject to the conditions set out under the heading ‘Use of calculators in examinations’ in the Special Regulations concerning Examinations.

(5(a)) Anthropological Analysis and Interpretation or (5(b)) Sociological Theory

The date by which students must make their choice will be stated in the course handbook.*

(6) Dissertation

(7) and (8) Candidates will also be required to offer two optional subjects from a list posted in the Human Sciences Centre at the beginning of the first week of Hilary Full Term in the year preceding the final examination. These lists will also be circulated to College Tutors. The date by which students must make their choice will be stated in the course handbook.*

** Human Scientists must choose their third-year options in Hilary Term of the second year. The precise date will be notified at the start of Hilary Term.*

Schedule of Subjects

1. Behaviour and its Evolution

Introduction to the study of behaviour including how questions in animal (including human) behaviour can be studied by experiment and observation. Adaptation, kin selection, parental care, group living, tool use, culture, conflict and aggression, sexual selection, animal signals, genes and innate behaviour, and learning. Evolutionary approaches to human behaviour, including the socio-behavioural ecology of Miocene, Pliocene

and Pleistocene hominins and evolutionary perspectives on human social and developmental psychology. This paper will be examined by an unseen written examination paper.

2. *Human Genetics and Evolution*

Evolution and genomics of Hominoidea; the genetic basis of hominin evolution and human diversity, including single gene traits, quantitative traits, and complex traits. The structure of the human genome, the associated technologies for genome analysis, methodological approaches to finding genes for traits, and social implications of genetic knowledge. Medical genetics as illustrated by cancer and genetic susceptibility to infection. This paper will be examined by an unseen written examination paper.

3. *Human Ecology*

Human ecology of disease, emphasising diseases that significantly contribute to the global burden of mortality and cultural change. Diet and nutrition anthropology of human societies. Ethno-biology and its cultural, ontological and epistemological contextualization, including Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Ethno-linguistics and the principles of folk-naming and folk-taxonomy of organisms, Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) and the significance of place, and practical applications of ethnobiology including biological conservation.

This paper will be examined by an extended essay not exceeding 5,000 words (including references and footnotes but excluding bibliography) and a presentation. The essay will be chosen from a list of titles published by the Examiners on Monday of Week 1 of Trinity Term of their second year.

Essays should be word-processed in double-line spacing and should conform to the standards of academic presentation prescribed in the course handbook. An electronic copy of the essay must be submitted to the University-approved assessment platform no later than noon on Friday of Week 6 of Trinity Full Term of the second year. Only the file submitted via the University-approved online assessment platform shall constitute a valid submission; no additional hard copy may be submitted, for any purpose.

Candidates will be required to give a short presentation on the topic of the extended essay in Michaelmas Term of their Final year. The exact date of the presentation will be notified to students by Week 1 of Michaelmas

Term. The presentation will be assessed for clarity and engagement and contributes 5% of the final mark for the extended essay.

4. *Demography and Population*

Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of the major features of past and present population trends, the socio-economic, environmental and bio-medical factors affecting fertility, morality and migration; the social, economic and political consequences of population growth, decline and ageing; and major controversies in demographic theory.

Specific topics will include traditional and transitional population systems in historical and contemporary societies; demographic transitions and their interpretation; demographic processes in post-transitional societies (modern Europe and other industrial areas) including very low fertility, longer life, international migration and new patterns of marriage and family; the changing position of women in the workforce; ethnic dimensions of demographic change; and policy interventions.

The paper will also test knowledge of demographic analysis and techniques including data sources, the quantitative analysis of fertility and morality, the life table, the stable population and other population models, population dynamics and projections, and limits to fertility and the lifespan. The paper will comprise two sections. Section 1 will test the candidate's knowledge of substantive trends and their explanation. Section 2 will test the candidate's ability to interpret quantitative results and methods of demographic analysis. Candidates will be required to answer three questions, two from Section 1 and one from Section 2.

5(a). *Anthropological Analysis and Interpretation*

The comparative study of social and cultural forms in the global context: to include economics and exchange, domestic structures and their reproduction, personal and collective identity, language and religion, states and conflict, understanding of biology and environment, historical perspectives on the social world and upon practice in anthropology. This paper will be examined by an unseen written examination paper.

5(b). *Sociological Theory*

Theoretical perspectives which may include rational choice; evolutionary psychology; interpersonal interaction; social integration and networks; functionalism. Substantive problems which may include stratification; gender; nationalism, race and ethnicity; collective action; norms; ideology;

economic development; gangs and organized crime. Candidates will be expected to use theories to explain substantive problems. This paper will be examined by an unseen written examination paper.

Paper 6. Dissertation (see beginning of Section 5 above)

Marking Procedures and Examination Conventions

Full details of the marking procedures for the Final Honour of Human Sciences can be found in the Examination Conventions.

Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission and penalties for over-length work.

The full examination conventions including the marking criteria for Examinations, Dissertations and Submitted Essays and Presentations can be found on Canvas

<https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/285179>

Descriptors of Classes

> 70	Class I	Demonstrates overall excellence, including sufficient depth and breadth of relevant knowledge to allow clarity of expression, construction of arguments, demonstration of critical faculties and originality.
60-69	Class Iii	Demonstrates overall a good standard of knowledge and understanding of material, and the ability to apply it effectively to address issues, offer interpretations and construct arguments.
50-59	Class Iiii	Demonstrates overall an adequate standard of knowledge and understanding of material, with some ability to apply it to addressing issues and to offering interpretations.
40-49	Class III	Demonstrates some depth of knowledge of core material and some ability to relate it to central topics of the discipline.
30–39 (without Honours)	Pass	Demonstrates the ability to reproduce with some accuracy a limited selection of the core material of the discipline.

< 30	Fail	Fails overall to demonstrate a sufficient range and depth of knowledge and understanding, and/or fails to apply it appropriately.
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Guidelines for assignment to overall degree class

Class 1:	Overall mean of 68 or more with 4 or more papers achieving a class mark of First Class (70+) mark
Class 2:1:	Overall mean of 60–67 with 4 or more papers achieving 2:1 marks or higher
Class 2:2:	Overall mean of 50–59 with 4 or more papers achieving 2:2 marks or higher
Class 3:	Overall mean of 40–49 with 4 or more papers achieving 3 rd class marks or higher
Pass:	Overall mean of 30–39 with 4 or more papers achieving Pass marks or higher.

As long as the stated required mean mark is achieved it is theoretically possible to pass the degree despite not achieving a pass mark on one or more papers.

Penalty Tariff for Late Submission of Written Work

Five marks will be deducted if the work is submitted late on the first day and 1 mark for each day it is late thereafter, with a maximum deduction of 18 marks and each weekend day counting as a full day.

Practical Information on taking exams can be found at

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/completing-an-exam>

Examiners' Reports and Past Papers

The Examiners produce a report on the examination that is discussed both at the Institute's Teaching Committee and at Divisional level. The report contains summary statistics, useful information about what Examiners were looking for in an answer to particular questions, and indications of any errors made by substantial proportions of the cohort. Copies of this report are posted on [Canvas](#) together with reports from the External Examiners (usually during the following Hilary Term).

Copies of past exam papers can be found on SOLO
(<https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>).

7. What do Human Scientists do after their Degree?

It is difficult to say in a few lines what Human Scientists do after their degree as the careers they follow are so varied. Past Human Sciences newsletters, HumSci News (which can be found on the [website](#)) give a good picture of the range of jobs Human Scientists tend to go for. For example: NHS management, banking, journalism, conservation, law, civil service, post-graduate research, overseas development work, academic careers, accountancy, publishing, etc. It may sometimes be possible to put you in touch with a Human Scientist doing the kind of work you think you might like.

Examples of what some Human Scientists have become include:

- Civil Servant for European Commission
- Co-ordinator for Help the Aged International in Bombay
- Deputy Director, HM Treasury
- Development Director of Rural Action for the Environment
- Director of Sustainable Strategy Consultancy
- Epidemiologist
- Finance Manager for Traidcraft Exchange
- Founder and CEO of Elephant Conservation Network
- Fund Manager in London
- General Practitioner
- Head of Education, The Royal Institution
- Health Promotion Officer
- Industry statistician at the Department of Trade and Industry
- Journalist
- Lecturer in Biological Anthropology
- Marketing Executive at London Business School
- Mental Health Social Worker
- NHS Manager
- Personnel Officer
- President of the Population Council
- Producer at the BBC Natural History Unit
- Professor of Neuroscience
- Professor of Medical Demography
- Professor of Public Health at the LSHTM
- Professor of Sociology
- Psychiatrist for Médecins Sans Frontières in Bosnia
- Researcher for an independent television company
- Research Fellow, Social Policy Research Unit

- Sustainability Consultant for environmental communications
- Schoolteacher
- Senior Projects Officer at the Mental Health Foundation
- Solicitor
- Technical editor of a medical journal
- Vet
- Young People's Project Officer at Christian Aid
- Writer of Children's Books

The University Careers Service

The academic and college environment at Oxford University is rich with opportunities for you to develop many transferable skills that are eagerly sought by employers. Undertaking an intellectually demanding academic course (often incorporating professional body requirements) will equip you for the demands of many jobs. Your course will enable you to research, summarise, present, and defend an argument with some of the best scholars in their subject. Under the direction of an experienced researcher, you will extend your skills and experiences through practical or project work, placements or fieldwork, writing extended essays or dissertations. In college and university sports teams, clubs and societies you will have the chance to take the lead and play an active part within and outside the University.

Surveys of our employers report that they find Oxford students better or much better than the average UK student at key employability skills such as problem solving, leadership, and communication. Hundreds of recruiters visit the University each year, demonstrating their demand for Oxford undergraduate and postgraduate students, fewer than 5% of whom are unemployed and seeking work six months after leaving.

Comprehensive careers advice and guidance is available from the Oxford University Careers Service, and not just while you are here: our careers support is for life. We offer tailored individual advice, job fairs and workshops to inform your job search and application process, whether your next steps are within academia or beyond. You will also have access to thousands of UK-based and international internships, work experience and job vacancies available on the [Careers Service website](#).

The Oxford Graduate Prospectus is also available online.

Website: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>

Appendices

Appendix 1 – University of Oxford: Equality Policy

The University of Oxford aims is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected.

You can view the full Equality Policy at:

<https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/equality-policy>

Appendix 2 – University of Oxford: Rules Governing IT Use

The attention of undergraduates is drawn to the University Rules for Computer Use, available on the University website at

<https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/it-regulations-1-of-2002> All users of IT and network facilities are bound by these rules.

Appendix 3 – University of Oxford Information Security Policy

Your attention is also drawn to the details about Information Security which can be found at <https://www.infosec.ox.ac.uk/students> This applies to all students of the university.

Appendix 4 – Other University Policies and Regulations

The University has a wide range of policies and regulations that apply to students. These are easily accessible through the A–Z of University regulations, codes of conduct and policies available on the Oxford students' website:

www.ox.ac.uk/students/academ_ic/regulations/a-z