

Introduction to D100

Contributors in clip: Michael Drake

Clip transcript:

Michael Drake:

Welcome to another year of “Understanding Society”, foundation course in the social sciences. We’re at the beginning of a long haul, in which we will be considering a great many questions through the perspective of our 5 social science disciplines (that’s to say: Psychology, Politics, Economics, Geography and Sociology). There’s a lot of ground to cover, but several thousand of our students covered it very successfully last year and I’m sure that you will too.

In our television programmes, we will be doing a variety of things, using film, discussions, interviews, graphs, maps, experiments, diagrams – even ‘Candid Camera’-type situations. One thing we shan’t be doing much of is what I’m doing right now: just talking straight at you. We aren’t lecturing very often, and we don’t expect you to be taking notes during our programmes, as you would at an ordinary university lecture. What I think would be useful, however, would be for you to take a look at the TV notes before you see the programmes – and after them – to note down any points that particularly strike you.

In today’s programme, Dr Derek Corcoran considers the question of why men live in societies from a psychologist’s point of view. He’ll be looking in particular at some of the similarities and differences between animal societies and human societies.