

## SOCS2300: Ethics for the Social Sciences

Callaghan and Ourimbah  
Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

*The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.*

## OVERVIEW

<b>Course Description</b>	In this course students are introduced to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) the nature of ethics and moral discourse in the social sciences;</li><li>(ii) a range of ethical issues and moral debates that they may encounter in their professional lives; and</li><li>(iii) methods for addressing these ethical issues.</li></ul>
<b>Assumed Knowledge</b>	40 units of study at 1000 level.
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Callaghan</b> <b>Lecture</b> Online 1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1 <b>Tutorial</b> Face to Face on Campus 1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 2 <b>Ourimbah</b> <b>Lecture</b> Online 1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1 <b>Tutorial</b> Face to Face on Campus 1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 2
<b>Unit Weighting Workload</b>	10 Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Callaghan and Ourimbah</b> Dr Fee Mozeley Fee.Mozeley@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: Please email for appointment
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
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# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	<p>The course has three modules. The first module introduces students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the study of ethics and moral discourse;</li><li>• the study of ethical methodology and justice; and</li><li>• the possibilities and limits of ethical discourse and practice.</li></ul> <p>The second module concerns a range of ethical issues and moral debates relevant to social science students, which may include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the moral principles underlying ethical debates and ethical research in the social sciences;</li><li>• ethical debates concerning relevant social issues or professional practice;</li></ul> <p>The third module introduces students to a range of ethical issues pertinent to Indigenous centred research in social sciences and to professional practice standards.</p>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<p><b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Demonstrate an understanding of a range of ethical issues, perspectives and debates as relevant to the social sciences.</li><li>2. Participate in discussions concerning ethical issues as they arise in workplace contexts.</li><li>3. Critically appraise and discuss the relevant literature in written and oral forms.</li><li>4. Effectively communicate understanding of ethical issues in written and oral forms, by employing analytical skills.</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	All course materials are available via the course canvas site

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Online Learning Activity (30%)	Friday 18 August	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Case Study / Problem Based Learning (35%)	Friday 15 September	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Written Assignments (35%)	Friday 27 October	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4

## Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

## Assessment 1 - Online Learning Activity (30%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Online Learning Activity
<b>Purpose</b>	Test the comprehension of content in Module 1
<b>Description</b>	Canvas Test
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday 18 August
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	On Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online

## Assessment 2 - Case Study / Problem Based Learning (35%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Case Study / Problem Based Learning
<b>Purpose</b>	Written response to questions relating to Module 2 content
<b>Description</b>	Short Answer Response
<b>Weighting</b>	35%
<b>Length</b>	800 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday 15 September
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	On Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online

## Assessment 3 - Written Assignments (35%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	Response to questions examining Module 3 content
<b>Description</b>	Essay
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	1500 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday 27 October
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	On Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

## Attendance

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Tutorial (Method of recording: In class)

## Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

## Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

## Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

## Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

## Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

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1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
  2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
  3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
  4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

### **Important Policy Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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