

EPHUMA 154: Social Enquiry

Ourimbah

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre recognises and respects the unique history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education. The Centre is committed to providing a culturally safe and inclusive environment for all.

OVERVIEW

Course Description	Social Enquiry offers an introduction to the critical analysis of everyday life to engage students in the application of a wide range of academic skills, language, and literature through sociological and historical insights. This course begins by exploring historical changes in social, political, and economic arrangements of cultural groups. It will examine the impact of structure, roles, functioning and inequality, and awareness of this on people's lives. Students will learn to develop a critical imagination to enable them to view the world in a way that challenges the taken-for-granted, or common-sense, view of the world. This is an enabling course which provides students with techniques and strategies to prepare them for tertiary study by learning to take an analytical approach to examining contemporary society.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Requisites	If you have successfully completed EPHUMA310 you cannot enrol in this course.
Contact Hours	Lecture Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1 Tutorial Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 11 week(s) starting Week 1
Unit Weighting	10
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Mrs Maureen May Maureen.May@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: Please email to schedule an appointment.	
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.	
School Office	Callaghan Ground Floor, General Purpose Building (GP) Ph: 02 4921 5558 enabling@newcastle.edu.au	Ourimbah HO 168, Humanities Building Ph: 02 4348 4076 enabling@newcastle.edu.au

SYLLABUS

Course Content	Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sociological imagination• Essay writing for the Social Sciences• Social conflict• Social cohesion• Social stratification• Social interaction• Discourse and power• Surveillance• Education
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply academic planning, research and referencing skills to academic writing.2. Identify and evaluate social issues, institutions and social structures which exist in everyday life using a social scientific approach.3. Use library research skills for academic research.4. Critically analyse problems using theory in written forms.
Course Materials	All course materials will be provided on the course Canvas site. Students are not required to purchase a textbook.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to Sociology	<i>Introducing sociology</i> (Osborne & Van Loon, 1999) selected pages	Monday 26 th Feb Quiz 1 opens
2	4 Mar	The Sociological Imagination	'The sociological gaze: Linking private lives to public issues' (Germov & Poole) ch.1 in <i>Public sociology: An introduction to Australian society – 4th ed.</i> (Germov & Poole, 2019)	
3	11 Mar	Sociological Skills 1: Library skills and finding sociological sources	Libguide: 1. Annotated bibliography Guide 2. Quick guide to referencing (Harvard) 3. Tops tips to write well.	Quiz 1 due: Friday 15 th March 11:59pm
4	18 Mar	Durkheim, Functionalism, and Social Cohesion	'Sociological foundations: Early theorists and theories' (Poole & Germov) ch.2 in <i>Public Sociology: An introduction to Australian Society - 4th ed.</i> (Germov and Poole, 2019)	
5	25 Mar	Marx and Class Conflict	'The C word: some thoughts about class in Australia' (Winton, 2014) in <i>The Monthly</i> , Dec 2013 – Jan 2014	WA 1- Annotated Bibliography due: Friday 29 th March 11:59pm
6	1 Apr	Sociological skills 2: Writing blogs and essays	Libguide: 1. Reflective writing and blogs 2. How to write an essay	
7	8 Apr	Weber: Social Status and Stratification	'Social class in Australia: Beyond the 'working' and 'middle' classes' <i>ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences Report No. 19</i> (Shepard, J & Biddle, N 2015)	
Recess				
Recess				
8	29 Apr	Goffman, Dramaturgy and the Commodification of the Self	'Goffman's dramaturgical sociology' (Kivisto & Pittman) in <i>Illuminating social life: Classical and contemporary theory revisited - 6th ed.</i> , (Kivisto, ed. 2013)	Online Learning Activity due: Friday 3 rd May 11:59pm
9	6 May	Foucault, Power and Knowledge	'Knowledge, discipline and government – Michel Foucault' (Van Krieken, Habibis, Smith, Hutchins, Martin & Maton 2017) in <i>Sociology - 6th ed</i>	
10	13 May	Bourdieu and Capital	'The forms of capital' (Bourdieu) in <i>Handbook of theory and research for the sociology of education</i> (Richardson 1986)	WA2 - Essay due: Friday 17 th May 11:59pm
11	20 May	Social Research Methods and Sociological Skills 3: Creative Sociology	'The nature and process of social research' in <i>Social Research Methods</i> , 4th ed. (Bryman, 2012) 'Being creative with methods' in <i>Qualitative researching - 3rd ed.</i> , (Mason, 2018)	Monday 20 th May Quiz 2 opens
12	27 May	Course review	No readings	
13	3 Jun	No lecture	No tutorials	Take home test and Quiz 2 due: Sunday 9 th June 11:59pm
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 5 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Written Assignment 1	Friday 29 th March 11:59pm	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Online Learning Activity	Friday 3 rd May 11:59pm	Individual	10%	1, 2, 4
3	Online Quizzes	Quiz 1: Friday 15 th March 11:59pm Quiz 2: Sunday 9 th June 11:59pm	Individual	10%	2, 3, 4
4	Written Assignment 2	Friday 17 th May 11:59pm	Individual	25%	1, 2, 3, 4
5	Take Home Exam	Sunday 9 th June 11:59pm	Individual	35%	2, 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 5% 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 - Written Assignment 1

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	Throughout your studies you will be researching and presenting your ideas. Your ideas or arguments will be supported by evidence from scholarly sources. For this assignment, you will write an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is a list of citations or references, each followed by a short paragraph, called the annotation, which summarises and evaluates the source.
Length	700 words
Weighting	20%
Due Date	Friday 29 th March 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided in Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided in Canvas

Assessment 2 - Online Learning Activity

Assessment Type	Online Learning Activity
Description	For this assessment task you will be required to re-read the task you have submitted for Assessment Task 1 and write a reflection in response to the feedback that you received. Using feedback from your marker you will select TWO things that you can improve for your Assessment Task 4. You will then explain HOW you will improve/ implement this feedback for Assessment Task 4.
Length	500 words
Weighting	10%
Due Date	Friday 3 rd May 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided in Canvas
Return Method	This assessment will not be returned
Feedback Provided	General feedback provided in class

Assessment 3 - Online Quizzes

Assessment Type	Quiz
Description	There is often a lot of jargon that you have to remember at university. In sociology, jargon includes things like names of theorists and their theories (for example, Bourdieu and cultural capital) and key terms (such as neoliberalism). While you will generally be asked to apply these theories or key terms, it's good to have a quick reference for what they mean. Quizzes are used to test this knowledge. Quizzes will often be used throughout your studies to assess your recognition, understanding and application of key course concepts. They are designed to assess content knowledge. In this course there will be 2 quizzes that cover key aspects of the course including the weekly required readings. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions, selected randomly from a bank of 20 questions. You have one attempt per quiz with no time limit. You will need to select the most appropriate response.
Weighting	10%
Due Date	Friday 15 th March 11:59pm Sunday 9 th June 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Correct answers
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided in Canvas

Assessment 4 - Written Assignment 2

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	For this assignment, you will make use of the skills learnt in Written Assignment 1 (Annotated Bibliography) and the Online Learning Activity to develop a cohesive answer to the essay question (below). In completing an essay, you are developing some really fundamental skills. These include developing formal writing; clear communicative writing that consolidates your learning and organises your thinking. Write an essay on the assigned question.
Length	1200 words
Weighting	25%
Due Date	Friday 17 th May 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided in Canvas

Assessment 5 - Take Home Exam

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Description	This 'In Term Test' will examine your knowledge of specific course content. It consists of writing two short essays from a list of questions provided in week 10. The purpose of an interim test is to emphasise your understanding of key core concepts, your ability to apply them and your ability to think critically. We want to see that you have taken time to apply the course concepts and carefully considered your responses. This test will be exceptionally useful for you to develop your skills in formulating and presenting an argument, a skill that will be invaluable for participating in tutorial discussion in undergraduate studies (and in life outside the university).
Weighting	35%
Due Date	Sunday 9 th June 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	No Feedback will be provided for this assessment

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.

Communication Methods

Email is the principal form of communication at the university and within this course. Always use your student email (NUmail), rather than a private email address, and check this regularly. As Course Coordinator I will try to respond to your email within three (3) working days. I will not normally respond to emails over the weekends. Please be courteous in your email communication and in the online space.

Canvas is used to distribute course material, announcements and other information. It is also used for online quizzes and to allow students to track their individual progressive assessment results throughout the semester via Grades.

Discussions forums in Canvas can be used to ask questions about minor issues. Students are strongly encouraged to use these to communicate with each other, discuss issues relating to the course, and solve minor problems.

Attendance and Engagement

In addition to face-to-face hours in class, out-of-class study and related work will require an additional commitment of up to 10 hours per week of reading, preparation, and study time over the semester. Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact hours including assessment) per semester per 10 unit course.

To maximise your learning opportunities, you should read all relevant material prior to attending class.

It is strongly recommended that you attend your classes every week. Our data shows that you will get better results if you attend class with your peers. If you do have to miss a class, you should catch up on any missed work by accessing lecture recordings if you are enrolled face-to-face. While online tutorials are recorded, on-campus tutorials are not, so you should view other resources available on your Canvas site and contact your course coordinator if you would like advice on how to best catch up on any material that was missed. **If you are unable to attend classes regularly you should reach out to your course coordinator as soon as possible to discuss ways that you can continue to engage with the learning material.**

A plan of regular revision throughout the semester is also strongly recommended to help you manage your time, consolidate information and retain that knowledge for the duration of

the course and beyond.

Assessment items have been designed to reinforce and revise the course material, and ensure you are up to date with course content. You are required to submit all assessable items by the due dates unless prior arrangements have been made.

Additional Contact Details

If you have any questions about your course, please speak with your course coordinator, lecturer or tutor first. For general enquiries, please contact the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre Office or your Student Liaison Officer. Contact details for both the office and Student Liaison Officers can be found [here](#).

Yapug students can also contact your Indigenous Enabling Learning Advisor [Hannah Pipe](#) or your Program Convenor [Dan Collins](#).

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 Adverse Circumstances must be lodged via the online Adverse Circumstances system for all individual assessment items worth 30% or greater **by 11:00pm on the day the assessment is due**. For assessment items less than 30%, you will need to contact your Course Coordinator by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item.

Before applying you must refer to the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure](#) and the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Policy](#).

Please note that students must submit their adverse circumstances application via the online Adverse Circumstances system by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item, even if you are using a [Reasonable Adjustment Plan \(RAP\)](#) as your supporting documentation.

Written Assessment Word Limits

If this course includes written assessments, the word limit listed will include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. You will not receive a penalty for exceeding the word limit (there is a tolerance of up to 10%), but any work after the maximum word limit may not be included within the allocation of marks.

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. Please refer to the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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](#).

Workplace Health and Safety Requirements

There are no specific WH&S requirements for this course.

Software

Free Microsoft Office software is available to enrolled students [here](#) and includes 5 TB of free cloud storage with OneDrive.

Timetable

Your timetable for this course is available via the myUni Student Portal and can also be found [here](#).

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.

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](#) that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Director, PALS. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Director 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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