School of Humanities Creative Industries SocialSci

SOCA1010: Society and Culture: an Introduction to Sociology

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024

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

Course Description	Introduces the sociological perspective through an exploration of contemporary social and cultural issues. Topics may include: socialisation and identity, sex and gender, race and ethnicity, class and social inequality, globalisation and work, deviance and social control, and media and popular culture. Key sociological concepts and theories are used to examine social patterns, social action and social change.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Contact Hours	**Callaghan** **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 2
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	**Callaghan** A/Prof Steven Threadgold Steven.Threadgold@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 5919 Consultation: Please email for an appointment
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	**School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences** Social Sciences Building Callaghan HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content
- Course content will be drawn from a selection of the following topics:
- What is sociology? Developing a 'sociological imagination'
- An overview of sociological perspectives and social research
- Socialisation and identity
- Sex and gender
- Race, racism, ethnicity and multiculturalism
- Work and unemployment
- Class and social inequality
- Deviance and social control
- Media and popular culture
- Sociology and digital media
- Societal-environmental interactions

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify and explain a range of sociological perspectives, concepts and research approaches.
2. Understand and analyse inequality and power using sociological literature.
3. Plan sociological research using foundational information literacy skills.
4. Communicate sociological research findings.

Course Materials

Woodman, D and Threadgold, S. 2021. This is Sociology: A Short Introduction. Sage: London.
https://www.booktopia.com.au/this-is-sociology-dan-woodman/book/9781529768831.html

Further resources will be provided on the Canvas course website.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Lecture	Tutorial	Assessment
1	26 Feb	**What is Sociology**	Read the Preface and Chapter 1 *This is Sociology* Make sure you are officially enrolled in classes.	
2	4 Mar	**The Foundations of Sociology**	Read Chapter 2 *This is Sociology* **Reminder:** take a Library Orientation Tour	

3	11 Mar		Read Chapter 3 *This is Sociology*	
4	18 Mar	**Globalisation**	Read Chapter 4 *This is Sociology*	**Quiz 1 OPEN:** Monday March 18 at 9:00am and close at 11:59pm on Sunday March 31
5	25 Mar Good Friday PH March 29	**Social Selves**	Read Chapter 5 *This is Sociology*	**LREP DUE:** Thursday March 28, 11:59pm.
6	1 Apr	**Culture and Media**	Read Chapter 6 *This is Sociology*	
7	8 Apr	**Digital Sociology**	Read Chapter 6 'Youth, social media and digital lives' in France, A. Coffey, J. Roberts, S. and Waite, C. 2020. *Youth Sociology*. Macmillan: London.	**PODCAST DUE:** Sunday April 14, 11:59pm. **Quiz 2 OPEN:** Monday April 8 at 9:00am and close at 11:59pm on Sunday April 28.
			Mid-Semester Recess	
			Mid-Semester Recess	
8	29 Apr	**Class**	Read Chapter 7 *This is Sociology*	
9	6 May	**Sex, Gender and Sexuality**	Read Chapter 8 *This is Sociology*	
10	13 May	**Race and Ethnicity**	Read Chapter 9 *This is Sociology*	**Quiz 3 OPEN:** Monday May 13 and close at 11:59pm Sunday May 26.
11	20 May	**Changing the World**	Read Chapter 10 *This is Sociology*	
12	27 May	**Youth**	Read Chapter 1 'What is Youth' in France, A. Coffey, J. Roberts, S. and Waite, C. 2020. *Youth Sociology*. Macmillan: London.	**ESSAY DUE:** Sunday May June 2, 11:59pm
13	3 Jun			**Quiz 4 OPEN:** Monday June 3 at 9:00am and close at 11:59pm on Sunday June 16
			Examination Period	
			Examination Period	

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Tutorial exercises (Podcast) (15%)	Sunday April 14, 11:59pm.	Group	15%	1, 4
2	Library research report (LREP)(15%)	Thursday March 28, 11:59pm.	Individual	15%	3
3	Essay (40%)	Sunday June 2, 11:59pm.	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Examination (30%) Online Quizzes	Quiz 1: OPEN: Monday March 18, 9:00am. CLOSE: Sunday March 31, 11:59pm. Quiz 2: OPEN: Monday April 8, 9:00am.	Individual	30% (4x7.5%)	1

| | | CLOSE: Sunday April 28, 11:59pm.

Quiz 3: OPEN: Monday May 13, 9:00am.
CLOSE: Sunday May 26, 11:59pm

Quiz 4: OPEN: Monday June 3, 9:00am
CLOSE: Sunday June 16, 11:59pm. | | | |

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 - Tutorial Exercises (Podcast)

Assessment Type Tutorial Exercises

Purpose The podcast will focus on the application of sociological knowledge and the development of students' academic skills. Podcast involves learning the conceptual material, using relevant example and developing skills in terms of working with others.

Description Students will form groups and will make a ten minute podcast in which they explain and critically discuss a sociological question. All planning, preparation, writing, recording and uploading is up to each group to manage in their own time outside of class. One person from each group should nominate to upload an audio file on the due date. All group members will receive the same grade for this assessment.

The 10 minute Group Podcast will focus on the application of sociological knowledge and the development of students' academic skills.

In week 3 tutorials, your tutor will place you in a group of up to 6 students to work together on the project.

Weighting 15%

Length 10 minutes of podcast per group

Due Date Sunday April 14, 11:59pm.

Submission Method Online
Online copy to Turnitin, via the course's Canvas site

Assessment Criteria You will be marked on the following criteria:
Your understanding of the course materials (lectures and readings from the textbook).
How you respond to the prompt question – is it addressed fully?
The structure and organisation of the podcast – is it presented clearly and logically?

Return Method Online

Feedback Provided Online

Assessment 2 – Library Research Essay Plan (LREP)

Assessment Type Report

Purpose The LREP is designed to help you prepare for your Essay.

Description Students will interpret an essay topic, find six academic sources on that topic and create a brief essay plan.

Weighting 15%

Length 750 words

Due Date Thursday March 28, 11:59pm.

Submission Method Online copy to Turnitin, via the course's Canvas site

Assessment Criteria You will be marked of the following criteria:
- Your interpretation of the topic and identification of appropriate keywords for your library search.
- Your selection of appropriate resources.
- The structure and clarity of your essay plan – is it organised clearly and logically in a conventional essay format.
- Writing style; comprehensibility, spelling, grammar.
- Correct referencing in text and a reference list.

Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 3 - Essay

Assessment Type	Essay
Purpose	The essay is a method of communicating your knowledge and understanding about a topic within a given timeframe and word limit.
Description	Choose one of the following essay questions:
	1. Critically analyse the statement that Australia is a 'classless society'.
	2. In what ways is gender difference a basis for inequality in contemporary society?
	3. Critically analyse the notion that Australia is an egalitarian society with reference to racism and ethnicity.
	4. In what ways do the media reinforce class, gender or race inequalities? (choose either class, gender or race, you do not do all three in this question)
Weighting	40%
Length	1500 words (referencing not included in length)
Due Date	Sunday June 2, 11:59pm.
Submission Method	Online copy to Turnitin, via the course's Canvas site
Assessment Criteria	You will be marked on the following criteria:
	- How you have answered the specific question.
	- Your understanding of the course materials (lectures and readings from the textbook) and your own further reading and research.
	- Your argument – does your essay take a specific stance or present a distinct reading of the essay question.
	- The structure of your essay (including introduction, content, and conclusion – for instance, does your conclusion coherently summarize the main point(s) of your essay?).
	- Writing style; comprehensibility, spelling, grammar.
	- Correct referencing in text and a reference list at the end of your essay following the School guidelines.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 4 - Examination

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Purpose	Students are to complete four quizzes that test their knowledge of the ideas, concepts, and theorists discussed in the required weekly readings and lecture recordings.
Description	Each quiz is comprised of 10 multiple-choice questions. The questions are based on course content covered in the three weeks of the course preceding the week in which the quiz takes place.

- Quiz 1: covers weeks 1, 2 and 3
- Quiz 2: covers weeks 4, 5, and 6
- Quiz 3: covers weeks 7, 8, and 9
- Quiz 4: covers weeks 10, 11 and 12.

Each quiz will became available on the Monday at 9:00am and close at 11:59pm on the Sunday of the following week.

Weighting	30% (4x7.5%)
Length	Students will have 60 minutes to complete a quiz. This time limit begins after the student has successfully logged on to the system. The 60-minute time limit and the randomisation of questions help to prevent cheating and promote academic integrity
Due Dates	Quiz 1: OPEN: Monday March 18, 9:00am. CLOSE: Sunday March 31, 11:59pm. Quiz 2: OPEN: Monday April 8, 9:00am. CLOSE: Sunday April 28, 11:59pm. Quiz 3: OPEN: Monday May 13, 9:00am. CLOSE: Sunday May 26, 11:59pm Quiz 4: OPEN: Monday June 3, 9:00am CLOSE: Sunday June 16, 11:59pm.
Submission Method	Online The quizzes will be completed via the course's Canvas page - see under the 'assessment' tab
Assessment Criteria	Number of correct answers
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	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).

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.

- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.

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:
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/respect-at-uni/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.
© 2024 The University of Newcastle, Australia