School of Humanities Creative Industries Social Science
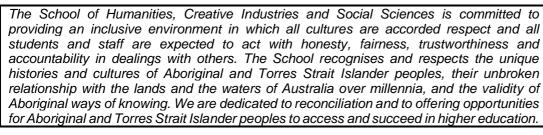
SOCA1010: Society and Culture: A Sociological Introduction

Online

Semester 1 - 2024

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.

Contact Hours

Online
3 hours of online activity each week via Futurelearn

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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	**Online** A/Pr Steven Threadgold Steven.Threadgold@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 5919
Teaching Staff	**Dr Jonathan Curtis** jonathan.curtis@newcastle.edu.au Any questions and queries should be directed to Dr Jonathan Curtis. Consultations are available via online zoom most days of the week. Please email if you wish to make an appointment.
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

Germov, J. & Poole, M. (2019) 4th edition. Public Sociology: An Introduction to Australian
Society. Allen & Unwin: Sydney.

Other resources for the course are available on the Canvas website.

SCHEDULE

Wee k	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	The Sociological Gaze: Studying Society & Culture	Read Chapter 1 & 5	
2	4 Mar	Sociological Theory: Easy As!	Read Chapter 2 & 3	
3	11 Mar	Sex and Gender	Read Chapter 12	

4	18 Mar	Class and Inequality in Australia	Read Chapter 11	Quiz 1 OPEN Monday March 18 at 9am and close at midnight on Sunday March 31
5	25 Mar	Consumption and Lifestyles	Read Chapter 8	LREP DUE: THURSDAY March 28, midnight.
6	1 Apr	Youth Transitions and Youth Culture	Read Chapter 6	
7	8 Apr	Globalising Power	Read Chapter 18	PODCAST DUE: Sunday April 14, midnight. Quiz 2 OPEN Monday April 8 at 9am and close at midnight on Sunday April 28.
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Ethnicity, Multiculturalism & Refugees	Read Chapter 13	
9	6 May	Australian Aborigines: The Perpetuation of Inequality	Read Chapter 14	
10	13 May	Media and pop culture	Read: chapter 22	Quiz 3 OPEN Monday May 13 at 9am and close at midnight on Sunday May 26.
11	20 May	Digital Sociology	Read Chapter 21	
12	27 May	Environment and Society	Sociology and the Environment – chapter available via Canvas	ESSAY DUE: Sunday June 2, midnight
13	3 Jun			Quiz 4 OPEN Monday June 3 at 9am and close at midnight 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 (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%)	Quiz 1: OPEN: Monday March 18, 9am. CLOSE: Sunday March 31, 11:59pm. Quiz 2: OPEN: Monday April 8, 9am. CLOSE: Sunday April 28, 11:59pm. Quiz 3: OPEN: Monday May 13, 9am. CLOSE: Sunday May 26, 11:59pm. Quiz 4: OPEN: Monday June 3, 9am CLOSE: Sunday June 16, 11:59pm.	Individual	30% 4x7.5%)	1

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 / Laboratory Exercises
Description	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.
	Students will form groups and will make a ten-minute podcast in which they explain and critically discuss a key sociological concept or topic. 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 to Turnitin 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 the coordinator will place you in a group of up to students to work together on the project. You will be notified of your group via the course Canvas site. Topics will also be listed on the Canvas website with further details on this assessment item.
Weighting	15%
Length	10 minutes
Due Date	Sunday April 14, 11.59pm.
Submission Method	Online, via the Canvas site.
Assessment Criteria	You will be marked on the following criteria: 1. Your understanding of the course materials (Futurelearn content and textbook readings).

2. 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 report (LREP)

Assessment Type	Report
Description	The Library Research and Essay Plan (LREP) is designed to help you prepare for your Essay
	The LREP is a systematic way to organise your thinking and information gathering on an essay topic. Before writing your essay you are required to do the LREP addressing the items below. Feedback on this assignment will help with your essay. Further details will be provided on the Canvas website.
Weighting	15%
Length	750 Words
Due Date	Thursday March 28, 11.59pm.
Submission Method	Online, via the Canvas site
Assessment Criteria	You will be marked of the following criteria:

1. Your interpretation of the topic and identification of appropriate keywords for your library search.
2. Your selection of appropriate resources.
3. The structure and clarity of your essay plan – is it organised clearly and logically in a conventional essay format.
4. 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 3 - Essay

Assessment Type	Essay
Description	The essay is a method of communicating your knowledge and understanding about a topic within a given timeframe and word limit. Essay writing helps to develop analytical and communication skills by providing a method of collecting your thinking' about a topic in a logical, credible and persuasive way. Further details about this assessment will be provide on the Canvas website.
Weighting	40%
Length	1500 Words (referencing not included in length)
Due Date	Sunday June 2, 11.59pm.
Submission Method	Online, via the Canvas site
Assessment Criteria	You will be marked on the following criteria:

1. How you have answered the specific question - your understanding of the course materials (Futurelearn content and readings from the textbook) and your own further reading and research.
2. Your argument – does your essay take a specific stance or present a distinct reading of the essay question.
3. The structure of your essay (including introduction, content, and conclusion – for instance, does your conclusion coherently summarize the main point(s) of your essay?).
4. Writing style: comprehensibility, spelling, grammar.
5. 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
Description	Students are to complete four quizzes that test their knowledge of the ideas, concepts, and theorists discussed in the required weekly readings and in the Futurelearn material.

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 9am and close at 11.59pm on the Sunday of the following week. Further details will be provided on the Canvas website.

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 Date	Quiz 1: OPEN Monday March 18 at 9am and close at 11.59pm on Sunday March 31 Quiz 2: OPEN Monday April 8 at 9am and close at 11.59pm on Sunday April 28. Quiz 3**:** OPEN Monday May 13 at 9am and close at 11.59pm on Sunday May 26. Quiz 4: OPEN Monday June 3 at 9am and close at 11.59pm on Sunday June 16
Submission Method	The quizzes will be completed via the course's Canvas site - see under the 'assessment' tab
Assessment Criteria	Based on the 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/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.