

## SOCA2400: Future Societies: Beyond Capitalist Globalization

Callaghan, Ourimbah and Online  
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

Capitalist and liberal democratic systems, while being at their global climax in both the developed and developing worlds, are facing serious challenges: from the rising socio-economic inequalities to the disturbing uncertainties in food, fuel and finance, to the looming threats of nuclear conflicts, trade wars/rivalries, political extremism, terrorism, global pandemics, and above all, climate change. Will global capitalism and Euro-centric modernity survive these crises? Will we be able to transition smoothly into more sustainable and resilient socio-ecological systems? Can new technological advances save civilization? Or do we need far more radical transformations and urgent responses at both the macro and micro levels? Is the end of 'organized life' now more imaginable than the end of capitalism? Is Life beyond Capital, Carbon, Constant growth and Consumerism possible or is this just a utopian dream? What are the plausible post-capitalist futures and how can they be realized? This course attempts to answer these questions by investigating how the past and present major trends of change influence our future and how grassroots initiatives and movements strive to create future societies beyond dependence on capital, carbon, consumerism, growth and discrimination. More specifically, it provides us with key insights into the nature and future of capitalist globalisation for social justice, sustainability and development.

### Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

### Requisites

This course replaces SOCA3420. If you have successfully completed SOCA3420 you cannot enrol in this course.

### Assumed Knowledge

40 units of study at 1000 level

### Contact Hours

#### Callaghan Lectorial

Face to Face On Campus  
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

#### Ourimbah Lectorial

Face to Face On Campus  
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

# COURSE OUTLINE

[www.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.newcastle.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider 00109J

---

**Online Lectorial**  
Online  
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 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.

## CONTACTS

### Course Coordinator

### Callaghan, Ourimbah and Online

Dr S. A. Hamed Hosseini Faradonbeh

[Hamed.Hosseini@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Hamed.Hosseini@newcastle.edu.au)

(02) 4921 5878

Consultation: You are encouraged to schedule a face-to-face (F2F) or Zoom meeting by sending an email request. Alternatively, you can email your queries, or utilize the course discussion forums for both public inquiries and sharing your thoughts or comments.

### Teaching Staff

Other teaching staff will be advised on the course website.

### School Office

### School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences

Social Sciences Building

Callaghan

[HCISS@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:HCISS@newcastle.edu.au)

+61 4985 4500

## SYLLABUS

### Course Content

This course will first offer a critical perspective on the root causes of recent global changes and the mounting challenges to human civilisations. It will then help students develop a more future-oriented perspective by investigating the progressive alternative ways of transforming society beyond the dominant capitalist, colonialist, neoliberal and authoritarian modes of living. Using Hosseini's Communist Framework and Transversality Theory, the course will critically examine a broad range of such alternatives in terms of their capacities to create free, just, peaceful and self-sufficient futures.

Topics are likely to include:

1. Contested meanings of capitalist globalisation;
2. Future of human civilisation under global capitalism;
3. The nature and future of capitalism;
4. Global challenges posed by the capitalist ways of living to quality of life;
5. Post-capitalist movements and forces
6. Post-capitalist alternatives such as eco-socialism, eco-feminism, eco-anarchism, economic democracy, new social democracy, post-growth economy, wellbeing economy, etc.;
7. Commonism as a common platform for consolidating diverse progressive alternatives

### Course Learning Outcomes

### On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate major capitalist processes and transformations
2. Apply analytical frameworks to research major social and ecological problems caused by the expansion of capitalist relations.
3. Identify the effects of capitalist globalisation on economic growth, income distribution, poverty, education, health, social care, and the environment.

4. Critically evaluate neoliberal and post-neoliberal policy reforms and demystify myths about capitalism.

5. Examine post-capitalist alternative practices, systems, movements, models and agendas.

### Course Materials

#### Required Reading:

- Accessible via the course website in Canvas and listed in the Extended Course Outline for each week.

#### Lecture Materials:

- Accessible via the course website in Canvas for each week.

#### Recommended Reading:

- Listed in the Extended Course Outline for each Week in the course website in Canvas.

#### Multi-Media Resource:

- Accessible via the course website in Canvas for each Week.

#### Other details:

- For comprehensive information regarding assessments, suggested readings, activities, and evaluation criteria, students are advised to refer to the "Extended Course Outline" document, in conjunction with this Course Outline. You can access a copy of the Extended Course Outline on Canvas. Should you encounter any discrepancies either between this Course Outline and the Extended Course Outline or within the documents themselves, please notify your course coordinator promptly.

### SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction: Future societies beyond capitalist globalization	Introducing the course and its key notions	
2	4 March	Global Myths about Capitalism? On the nature and future of capital	Lecture, class discussion, quiz preparation	Friendly Online Quiz (3%)- 20 min open-book (with two attempts) - three basic questions based on the required course materials for this week. Accessible between 7 am Friday - 11.59 pm Monday
3	11 March	Future of Inequality and Poverty under Capitalism	Lecture, class discussion, quiz preparation	Friendly Online Quiz (3%)- 20 min open-book (with two attempts): 7 am Friday - 11.59 pm Monday
4	18 March	Future of Democracy under Capitalism	Lecture, class discussion, quiz preparation	Friendly Online Quiz (3%)- 20 min open-book (with two attempts): 7 am Friday - 11.59 pm Monday
5	25 March	Anthropocene or Capitalocene? Can the Planetary Life Survive Capitalism?	Lecture, class discussion, quiz preparation	Friendly Online Quiz (3%)- 20 min open-book (with two attempts): 7 am Friday - 11.59 pm Monday
6	1 April	Reading Week: Focus on Week 7 required readings	Classes are cancelled due to Easter Monday and	Quiz and classes affected by Easter Monday and Concession

			University Concession Day: <b>Watch the previous year's Workshop recording on CANVAS. Start writing the first draft of your Commentary – SEEK ADVICE IF NEEDED.</b>	Day
7	8 April	Imagining Life after Capital: Alternative Capitalisms vs. Alternatives to Capitalism	<b>WORKSHOP I:</b> Q&A on HOW TO WRITE YOUR CRITICAL COMMENTARY. <b>WORKSHOP II:</b> HOW TO WRITE YOUR ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY	<b>Critical Commentary due by 11.59 pm MONDAY 15th April</b>
Semester 1 Recess from Monday 15th April to Friday 26th April 2024				
<p>IMPORTANT: It is time to begin selecting your research topic for the Annotated Bibliography and Case Study Research Essay:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Start your research for both the Annotated Bibliography and Research Essay.</li> <li>2. Review the Essential Sources for Weeks 8-9 to choose your topic.</li> <li>3. Select a single topic for both assignments.</li> <li>4. Compile a list of two or three resources most relevant to your case study.</li> <li>5. Be prepared to discuss their relevance and key concepts with your teacher in class or via online forums.</li> </ol>				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Future Societies I [OPTION 1] Alternative Futures Beyond Capitalist Social Justice  Future Societies II [OPTION 2] Alternative Futures Beyond (il)liberal Democracy	If you select this week's topic for your assignments, choose a post-capitalist alternative as your case study, reflect on its pros and cons, and bring at least two sources with your notes to discuss in your tutorial or on the weekly online forum.	Continue working on your annotated bibliography.
9	6 May	Future Societies III Alternatives Futures Beyond Capitalist Sustainability	If you select this week's topic for your assignments, choose a post-capitalist alternative as your case study, reflect on its pros and cons, and bring at least two sources with your notes to discuss in your tutorial or on the weekly online forum	<b>Week 8ers' Annotation Bibliography by 11.59 pm MONDAY, 6 May</b>
10	13 May	Post-capitalist Alternatives (equality and democracy-oriented futures)	ESSAY WRITING Workshop on Week 8	<b>Week 9ers' Annotation Bibliography by 11.59 pm MONDAY, 13 May</b>
11	20 May	Post-capitalist Alternatives (eco-centric futures)	ESSAY WRITING Workshop on Week 9	
12	27 May	Self-directed study to complete the essay, consultation available by	Consultation by appointment in person and/or Zoom/phone	

		request		
13	3 Jun			<b>Final assignment by 11.59 pm, Wed 5th June</b>
Examination Period (No Exam)				

## 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	5 small weekly online quizzes	Each online quiz starts the Friday morning of Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and is due by 11:59 PM of the following Monday.	Individual	15% (5x3%)	1, 3
2	Critical review of reading materials	11.59 pm, 15 April 2024	Individual	25%	4
3	Annotated bibliography	To be submitted by 11.59 pm Monday 6 May for Week 8ers  11.59 pm Monday 13 May for Week 9ers	Individual	20%	5
4	Case study essay	Wednesday, 11.59 pm, 5th June	Individual	40%	2, 4, 5

### 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 weekdays and weekend days.**

### Assessment 1 - 5 small weekly online or in-class quizzes

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Purpose</b>	To promote a sound understanding of the basics of the course as presented and discussed in the first six weeks.
<b>Description</b>	Five online quizzes, co-created with students (containing 3 basic questions based on the weekly readings and lectorial notes of the week before): Administered on Fridays of Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and due by the next Monday of each relevant week. Quizzes are open book and based on the required readings, lectorial presentations, and/or multimedia materials discussed in class. Attending lectorials, taking notes, and actively participating in class discussions (online or offline) around possible quiz questions after each lectorial presentation in Weeks 2-6 will help you prepare for the quizzes. See the extended course outline on the course website for more details.
<b>Weighting</b>	15% (5x3%)
<b>Length</b>	20 minutes (3 questions per quiz)
<b>Due Date</b>	Each online quiz starts the Friday morning of Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and is due by 11:59 PM the following Monday.
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online via Canvas website
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Number of correct answers
<b>Return Method</b>	Online via the Canvas website
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online via the Canvas website

## Assessment 2 - Critical review of reading materials

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Literature Review
<b>Purpose</b>	To assist students in developing critical thinking skills relevant to the subject of the course. These skills are necessary for completing subsequent assignments, including the annotated bibliography and the research essay.
<b>Description</b>	Complete and submit an 800-word Critical Commentary focusing on a combination of two readings from Week 7's Required Reading list. This task is due by 15th April and is worth 25 points. Your commentary should address the specific Commentary Question provided. For more detailed information, please refer to the extended course outline on the course website.
<b>Weighting</b>	25%
<b>Length</b>	800 Words
<b>Due Date</b>	11.59 pm, 15 April 2024
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online via the Canvas website
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	As per the rubric or list of assessment criteria on the course website in Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online via the Canvas website
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online via the Canvas website

## Assessment 3 - Annotated bibliography

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Annotated Bibliography
<b>Purpose</b>	To assist students in initiating research for their final assignment (the research essay) by finding or selecting two relevant sources for their chosen topic. Students will annotate these sources using a provided template, gaining familiarity with the topic and taking the first step in their research project. This will also enable them to receive feedback to ensure they are on the right track.
<b>Description</b>	Annotated Bibliography on a Post-Capitalist Alternative Case by annotating the bibliography of TWO sources relevant to the topic of your essay; Locate and annotate two academic resources, ideally from the Essential or Recommended Sources for Weeks 8 or 9, focusing exclusively on one post-capitalist Alternative case from the Essay Question list. If these sources don't meet your needs, feel free to search for and select additional sources from the library databases. Choosing a post-capitalist Alternative Case Study that aligns with your research essay topic is advisable. This assignment is designed to aid in your preparation for the final assignment. See the extended course outline on the course website for more details.
<b>Weighting</b>	20%
<b>Length</b>	800 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Submit by 11:59 pm on the MONDAY following the week you select for your essay topic (i.e., due by Monday of Week 9, for those choosing Week 8 topics, or by Monday of Week 10 for those choosing Week 9 topics).
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online via the Canvas website
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	See the rubric or list of assessment criteria on the course website in Canvas.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online via the Canvas website
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online via the Canvas website

## Assessment 4 - Case study essay

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Case Study / Problem-Based Learning
<b>Purpose</b>	To apply and enhance the research skills acquired during the course, specifically in the study of Alternatives to Capitalism.
<b>Description</b>	Write a 2500-word essay on a topic selected from Weeks 8 (Choice 1 or 2) or 9, responding to the relevant Research Essay Question. The essay should follow an academic format with standard referencing (Harvard or APA preferred). Incorporate resources annotated in your second assignment and any from the Required Readings, Essential, and Recommended Sources. A minimum of 8 academic (peer-reviewed) sources is required. The word count excludes the reference list.
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	2500 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Wednesday, 11.59 pm, 5th June
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online via the Canvas website
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	As per the rubric or list of assessment criteria on Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online via the Canvas website
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online via the Canvas website

# 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:

- Lectorial

## 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.
- 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:

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 familiarize 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