

TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI



VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC 305

Social Organisation

Course Outline

CRN 1641: 20 POINTS: TRIMESTER 2, 2010

Teaching Dates: 12 July – 15 October 2010

Study/Examination period: 18 October - 13 November 2010

COURSE COORDINATOR: DR MIKE LLOYD

Room 1015, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 5678

Email: mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: MON 3–4PM & WED 3-5PM: HM LT104

COURSE COORDINATOR

Mike Lloyd
Murphy building, MY 1015
Tel: 04 463 5678
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OFFICE HOURS

by appointment

SCHOOL LOCATION

Sociology programme staff are located on level 10 of the Murphy Building. School notice boards are on level 9 and 10, Murphy Building. All notices concerning this course, including information about tutorials, will be posted on the level 9 notice board.

WEBSITE

The School's website is at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs>. On the same page you will find *Sociolog*, <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/about/sociolog.aspx>, a chronicle of reflections written by Sociology, Social Policy, Social Science Research staff and postgraduate students.

COURSE CONTENT

Any group of persons – prisoners, primitives, pilots, or patients – develop a life of their own that becomes meaningful, reasonable and normal once you get close to it. Erving Goffman, *Asylums* (1962).

Basically what I have to sell is the sorts of work I can do. I don't have to sell its theoretical underpinnings, its hopes for the future, its methodological elegance, its theoretical scope, or anything else. I have to sell what I can do, and the interestingness of my findings. Harvey Sacks, in Lerner (2004).

Eternity is a long time, especially towards the end. Woody Allen

The type of questions that this course considers include: Could sociology be closer to the social worlds we are surrounded by, hence more sensible to everyday people? Can we make sociology less obscure, more understandable, but at the same time rigorously analytical? In the course, the term 'social organisation' is used as a motif for what sociology is about. The word 'social' refers to joint activity, and the word 'organisation' refers to anything that has a systematic structure, consequently, the course is about people doing things together in an organised fashion. The course

mixes discussion of theory and research. The key aim in this discussion is to ground sociological inquiry in pragmatic questions: to understand 'social organisation' we can ask Who, What, Where, When and How questions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand 'social organisation' as a term that indicates sociology's subject matter (all assignment work)
- Understand the manner in which social organisation can be investigated (assignment 2, 3)
- Think critically about sociological arguments (all assignment work)

LECTURE PROGRAMME

July 12	Introduction to the course
July 14	Sociology: Indignation and critique?
July 19	Popular psychology
July 21	The social construction of ...
July 26	Social organisation: keywords
July 28	Habit and action
Aug 2	Language
Aug 4	Tutorial 1
Aug 9	Doing things with things
Aug 11	Tutorial 2
Aug 16	Rules and tricks of the trade
Aug 18	<i>Class Test</i>

AUG 23 – SEP 5 MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

Sep 6	Critical evaluation
Sep 8	Tutorial 3
Sep 13	Cultural Studies and banality
Sep 15	Tutorial 4
Sep 17	Assignment one due

Sep 20	Topic to be announced
Sep 22	Tutorial 5
Sep 27	Organising the end of life
Sep 29	Planning session for student seminars
Oct 4	Student seminars
Oct 6	Student seminars
Oct 11	Student seminars
Oct 13	Course conclusion
Oct 15	Assignment two due

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

There are five tutorials for this course (dates in the lecture programme below). They revolve around readings contained in the Student notes. The tutorials require students to prepare by reading selected material from the book of readings (these will be notified ahead of time in lectures and Blackboard announcements). Tutorials are not compulsory. There is little point in turning up to the tutorials unless you have read and thought about the required reading.

COURSE MATERIAL

The only course material used in this course is a book of student notes, which is available from the Student Notes Distribution Centre for approx \$25.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

Contents of Book of Readings

Reading 1:

Blumer, H. (1954). "What is Wrong with Social Theory?", in *American Sociological Review*, Volume 19 (1), pp. 3-10.

Reading 2:

Erikson, K. (2008). "On Sociological Writing", in *Sociological Inquiry*, Volume 78 (3), pp. 399-411.

Reading 3:

Smith, D. (2008). "From the 14th floor to the Sidewalk", in *Sociological Inquiry*, Volume 78 (3), pp. 417-422.

Reading 4:

Runciman, W. G. (2008). "Forgetting the Founders", in *The Sociological Review*, Volume 56 (3), pp. 358-369.

Reading 5:

Sokal, A. (2002). "A Physicist Experiments with Cultural Studies: a confession" in *Quick Studies: The Best of Lingua Franca*, New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, pp. 3-9.

Reading 6:

Various authors. (2002). "Mystery Science Theater: a Forum on the Sokal Hoax" in *Quick Studies: The Best of Lingua Franca*, New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, pp. 10-21.

Reading 7:

Latour, B. (2004). "The Social as Association", in *The Future of Social Theory*. London: Continuum, pp. 77-90.

Reading 8:

Schudson, M. (2002). "Paper Tigers: A Sociologist Follows Cultural Studies Into the Wilderness" in *Quick Studies: The Best of Lingua Franca*, New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, pp. 39-54.

Reading 9:

Lloyd, M. (2007). "Linking Abortion and Mental Health: What Does a Difference Mean?", in *New Zealand Sociology*, Volume 22 (1), pp. 167-182.

Reading 10:

McLennan, G. (2004). "Beyond Cultural Studese", review article in *New Zealand Sociology*, Volume 19 (2), pp. 321-329.

Reading 11:

Beatson, P. (1996). Book Review of Claudia Bell "Inventing New Zealand: Everyday Myths of Pakeha Identity", in *Sites*, No. 32 (Autumn), pp. 118-124.

Reading 12:

Wilson, J. Z. (2008). "Pecking Orders: Power Relationships and Gender in Australian Prison Graffiti", in *Ethnography*, Volume 9 (1), pp. 99-121. ISSN 1466-1381

Reading 13:

Lloyd, M. (2007). "Rear Gunners and Troubled Privates: wordplay in a Dick Joke Competition", in *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, Volume 11 (1), pp. 5-23. ISSN 1360-6441.

Reading 14:

Molotch, H and McClain, N. (2008). "Things at Work", in *Journal of Consumer Culture*, Volume 8 (1), pp. 35-67.

Reading 15:

Latour, B. 2000. "The Berlin Key or How to do Words with Things", in P.M. Graves-Brown (Ed.) *Matter, Materiality and Modern Culture*. London: Routledge, pp. 10-21.

Reading 16:

Lawton, J. (1998). "Contemporary Hospice Care", in *Sociology of Health and Illness*, Volume 20 (2), pp. 121-143.

Reading 17:

Lloyd, M. (2004). "Life in the Slow Lane", in *Continuum*, Volume 18 (4), pp. 555-564.

Reading 18:

Scott, S. (2009). "Reclothing the Emperor: The Swimming Pool as a Negotiated Order", in *Symbolic Interaction*, Volume 32 (2), pp. 123-145.

Reading 19:

Savage, M. (2009). "Contemporary Sociology and the Challenge of Descriptive Assemblage", in *European Journal of Social Theory*, Volume 12 (1), pp. 155-174. ISSN 1368-4310

Reading 20:

Fraser, M. (2009). "Experiencing Sociology", in *European Journal of Social Theory*, Volume 12 (1), pp. 63-81. ISSN 1368-4310

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To meet mandatory course requirement for this course you must:

- ✓ Sit the in-class test and
- ✓ Submit both assignments.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

University guidelines stipulate that a 20-point course requires approximately 13 hours per week of student work (this includes class time).

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is internal and involves three pieces of work. The first is an in-class test, the second is a critical discussion essay, and for the third students can choose between a written essay or a seminar presentation.

In-Class Test *Wednesday Aug 18* *Weighting: 30%*

The test is based on the material covered in the first 11 class sessions, including the following readings from the course book of readings: 1 – 7. A guidance statement on the test will be given at least two weeks before the date of the test.

Essay *Critical discussion piece* *Weighting: 35%*
Due: 4pm, Friday Sep 17

Choose an article from a recent sociology journal (ie. from 2000 onwards). The article should be a report on research, ie. avoid purely theoretical discussions. Using your understanding of ‘social organisation’, read the article in detail and then work up a critical discussion.

Class time will be used to clarify ways of approaching this assignment (‘critical evaluation’ lecture on Sep 6; tutorial 3 on Sep 8).

Essay or Seminar Presentation *Weighting: 35%*
Essay Due: 4pm, Friday October 15

Either a 2500 word essay **or** a seminar presentation on a topic of your own choice.

Points to note:

- you may pursue any relevant topic that interests you, but you should check with the course coordinator before proceeding beyond the initial stages; early notification of intention to take the seminar option would be appreciated.
- a good way to work up a topic is to make use of material in the course book of readings, or to extend your work from assignment 1.
- There is a planning session on Sep 29 for those taking the seminar option. This will provide fuller details on how to present a seminar. The basic framework is

20 minutes for speaking and 5 to 10 minutes for discussion. All that needs to be handed in are the notes used for the presentation.

LATE ESSAYS

It is important to note that late work will normally be accepted only in the case of illness or other unavoidable emergencies. In such cases a medical certificate or equivalent is required. In special circumstances a student may make a prior arrangement for an extension.

PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSION

Late submissions of assignments in all Sociology undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e.

Mark out of maximum of Then deduct the following marks for each day it is late

10	½
20	1
30	1 ½
40	2

Where the due date is a Friday, any written work not handed in by 4.00 p.m. will be liable to a two day penalty.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information related to SOSC 305 will be communicated via Blackboard, which will be mainly used for posting announcements and the lecture PowerPoint slides.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is

not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be recruited in consultation with the class at the beginning of the course. The class representative's name and contact details will be available to the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA), the course coordinator and the class (on BlackBoard). The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

COURSE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

If you decide for ANY reason at ANY stage to withdraw from SOSC 305 (or any other course) please see the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for a Change of Course Form. Failure to do so may have consequences for enrolment, bursaries, allowances, loans, etc., i.e. you will get credited with a fail, not a withdrawal, on your record if you do not act promptly.

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013
Tel: 463 5676 E-m: Allison.Kirkman@vuw.ac.nz

International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023
Tel: 463 6132 E-m: Hal.Levine@vuw.ac.nz

Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101
Tel: 463 5432 E-m: Trevor.Bradley@vuw.ac.nz

Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120
Tel: 463 9980 E-m: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz

School Manager: Carol Hogan, MY918
Tel: 463 6546 E-m: Carol.Hogan@vuw.ac.nz

School Administrators: Monica Lichti, Alison Melling, Heather Day
MY921, Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677
E-m: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

Office use only

Date Received:

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CRIMINOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

Assignment Cover Sheet

(please write legibly)

Full Name: _____
(Last name) *(First name)*

Student ID: _____ Course (eg ANTH101): _____

Tutorial Day: _____ Tutorial Time: _____

Tutor (if applicable): _____

Assignment Due Date: _____

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

I certify that this paper submitted for assessment is the result of my own work, except where otherwise acknowledged.

Signed: _____ Date: _____