



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC/SPOL 214

*Special Topic: Knowledge, Power
and Understanding*

Course Outline

CRN SOSC: 10671 SPOL: 13098: 20 POINTS: TRIM 1, 2011

Teaching dates: 28 February – 3 June 2011

Mid-trimester break: 18 April – 1 May 2011

Study/Examination period: 6 June – 2 July 2011

COURSE COORDINATOR: DR KATHY STUART

Room 1003, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 5361

Email: kathy.stuart@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: TUES 2 – 3PM & WED 2 – 4PM: MURPHY 623

LECTURER: Dr Kathy Stuart
Murphy Building, MY 1003
Tel: 463 5361
E-mail kathy.stuart@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 3 – 4pm
Wednesdays 11am – 12pm

LECTURES: Tuesdays 2 –3pm in Murphy 632
Wednesdays 2 – 4pm in Murphy 632

TUTORIALS The Wednesday session will usually be a one-hour lecture followed by a one-hour tutorial with tutorials beginning in week three. Any exceptions to this format will be posted on BlackBoard.

PROGRAMME LOCATION

The Sociology Programme is located in the Murphy Building with the staff offices on level 10 and administration on level 9. Additional information will be posted on the School's student notice board, which is located on level 9, Murphy building.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information not in this Course Outline will be placed on BlackBoard at <http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>.

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

This course introduces students to scholarly debate about how we can gain reliable knowledge of the social world. The course will equip students to assess the merit and problems with sociological knowledge. Students will engage with scholarly arguments about the political effects of different forms of sociological knowledge. We will consider arguments that the social sciences have been a tool of domination. We will also consider how political activists have used sociological knowledge in struggles against oppression. The course draws on the fields of sociology of knowledge and the history and philosophy of science

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will:

- Understand and be able to discuss basic concepts from the sociology of knowledge. (Assessed through PowerPoint presentation of chosen essay topic, a peer-review of another student's draft essay, the essay assignment and final examination).
- Demonstrate an introductory knowledge of the history of the social sciences and statistics. (Assessed through the essay assignment and the final examination).
- Be able to demonstrate their recognition of the assumptions behind different styles of research design. (Assessed through peer-review of another student's draft, the essay assignment and the final examination).
- Be able to identify, analyse and evaluate the different political debates around the appropriate production of social scientific knowledge. (Assessed through the essay and the final examination).

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT

The essay will assess the learning objectives listed above. You will be expected to draw on course readings and your own independent research to demonstrate your understanding of the basic concepts of the sociology of knowledge, the history of the social sciences and to demonstrate your ability to apply this knowledge to an examination of your chosen topic area. The purpose of this form of assessment is:

- to encourage deep learning of course materials and enhance skills in critical reading and analysis.
- to encourage you to think and write critically, comparatively, and reflexively.

- to encourage you to read widely and to use books and articles in developing your research skills as a sociologist.
- to encourage you to engage with the key issues encountered.

The exam is designed to assess how well you have understood and engaged with the lectures, tutorials and the course readings.

COURSE MATERIALS FOR SOSC/SPOL 214

Each student should buy the prepared book of Student Notes for this course. All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, 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 and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on level 3 of the Student Union Building.

Students 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 students or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Students will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8am–6pm, Monday–Friday during term time (closing 5pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

OUTLINE OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Wednesday classes are a double session and will include discussion of the notebook reading. Please bring the reading to class and be prepared to discuss it. All required readings are in the student notebook which can be purchased from the Student Notes Distribution centre in the Student Union Building.

March 1 & March 2 Sociology of Knowledge: An Introduction

Reading One: Peter Burke "Sociologies and Histories of Knowledge: An Introduction" *Sociologies and Histories of Knowledge: From Gutenberg to Diderot*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000. 1-17

March 8 & March 9 Guest Lecturer: Professor Kevin Dew

Philosophy of Social Science: Researching the Social

Reading Two: Clifford Geertz Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science* Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (eds) Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1994, 213-231

March 15 & March 16: *Guest Lecturer: Dr Carol Harrington*
Bureaucracy and Knowledge

Reading Three: Geoffrey C. Bowker and Susan Leigh Star "To Classify is Human" *Sorting Things Out: Classification and its Consequences*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2000. 1-32.

March 22 *Guest Lecturer: Dr Alexander Maxwell*
Classification and Nationalism

March 23 *Guest Lecturer: Dr David Pearson*
National Movements and National Identities

Reading Four: Rogers Brubaker, and Frederick Cooper, 'Beyond "identity"'. In *Theory and Society* 29:1 (February, 2000): 1-47.

March 29 *Guest Lecturer: Chamsy el-Ojeili*
Knowledge and Revolution

Reading Five: Ben Agger. "Hegelian Marxism II: The Theory of Domination" *Western Marxism : an introduction : classical and contemporary sources* Santa Monica, California: Goodyear Publishing Co. Inc, 1979, 145-178.

March 30 **Student Presentations of Essay Topics**

April 5 & April 6 **Knowledge, Power and Emotion**
Reading: See Blackboard

April 12 *Guest Lecturer: Professor Kevin Dew*
Social Science and Social Coercion

Reading Six: Stewart R . Clegg, David Courpasson, Nelson Phillips "Power and Efficiency" *Power and Organizations*, London: Sage 2006, 39-65.

Essay Drafts Due

COURSE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

This course is assessed by internally assessed work worth 60% of your final grade, and a final examination worth 40% of your final grade.

For internal assessment, you will research the social construction of knowledge about a topic . It might be:

- ❖ Prostitution; Homosexuality; Breastfeeding; Asperger's Syndrome; ADHD; Depression; Marriage; Civil Union or something else. Ideally, come up with your own topic. Make it something of interest to you. Topics should be limited to a particular place and time.

We will discuss this more in class. If you do not know what to do please send me an e-mail and/or come and see me.

Student presentation of PowerPoint slide outlining research topics in class

Due: Wednesday March 30, in class time *2.5% of final grade*

Prepare and present a Powerpoint slide of your research essay proposal.

Research Essay Draft

Due: Tuesday April 12, by 4pm *2.5% of final grade*

Your essay draft must be submitted to the essay box on level 9, Murphy bldg by 4pm

Participation in the in-class peer-review process and written peer review

Due: Wednesday April 13, in class time *5% of final grade*

Provide a constructive peer review of a colleague's research essay draft for this class. More instructions about how to submit the written part of the peer review will be placed on BlackBoard.

Research Essay

50% of final grade

Due: Wednesday May 11, by 4pm

The essay (max 2500 words) must be handed in to the assignment box on level 9 of the Murphy building along with first draft, peer review comments, including reviewer's name, and a report of how you incorporated these comments into the final version (or why you didn't).

Final Examination

40% of final grade

The examination will be 2 hours long and will be scheduled during the examination period of 10 June – 2 July 2011. The date and time of the examination will be published on the University website in late April.

USE OF TURNITIN

The essay must be submitted to Turnitin for checking academic integrity as well as in hard copy by 11 May 2011. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

To use Turnitin, go to www.turnitin.com, click on 'create a user profile' in the upper right corner. After creating an account, you can log in with your ID and password as with an e-mail account. Details of the SOSC/SPOL 214 class ID and password will be found on BlackBoard.

When uploading submissions, be sure to click the final 'submit' button. If you have taken all the steps you will receive a notification/receipt.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The design of the course is based upon an assumption that students will need to spend on course work a minimum of 13 hours each week, including class contact hours. This workload is in accordance with the guidelines put forward by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for 20-point courses.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To meet mandatory course requirements students must:

- Submit all items of internal assessment;
- Sit the final examination.

HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS

It is the policy of the School of Social and Cultural Studies that all written assignments must be handed in by **4 pm** on the due date.

You must submit a hard copy and an electronic copy of your essays. Hard copies must be placed in the assignment box located to the side of the lifts on level 9, Murphy Building. Electronic copies must be e-mailed to kathy.stuart@vuw.ac.nz. Assignments **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. This is to ensure that all work is properly recorded when submitted, and to avoid problems that have arisen in the past when work has "gone missing".

At 4 pm the assignment box is emptied, the work date-stamped and its receipt recorded, and then handed to the appropriate markers.

School Cover Sheet

Please include a School Cover sheet when submitting your assignments. You may wish to have your own front sheet, but please ensure you place the School's cover sheet on the top as this ensures critical identifying information is provided. A sample School Cover sheet is at the end of this Outline. Further copies may be found at the School Administration office, and on the Assignment Box, on level 9 of Murphy building.

Students MUST keep a photocopy of every written assignment

Unless students have followed this procedure, the School will not accept responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in.

GRADES

The Social Policy Programme follows University policy in giving letter grades for all internally assessed work instead of giving numerical marks. The following table sets out the range of marks within which each letter grade is assigned. Your final grade and marks for the course will be an aggregate of the grades you achieve during the course.

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|---|
| Pass | A+ | 85% or over | Evidence of familiarity with relevant reading and sound understanding of concepts, plus individual interpretation and insights of a higher order. An A grade will not be achieved without such insight. Work well presented with logical structure and clarity of expression. |
| | A | 80%-84% | |
| | A- | 75%-79% | |

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-----------|---|
| | B+ | 70-74% | As above, but less individual insight and preparation. |
| | B | 65%-69% | High level of understanding exhibited. Assignment well presented. |
| | B- | 60%-64% | |
| | C+ | 55%-59% | Work lacks originality, individual insights and not strong on understanding. However, material used is relevant and presentation is satisfactory. |
| | C | 50%-54% | |
| Fail | D | 40%-49% | Little evidence of reading or comprehension. No insight. Poor presentation. |
| | E | Below 40% | A clear failure to reach an adequate standard on the criteria set out |

LATE PENALTIES

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy 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. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Note that assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or 7 days after an approved extension date. Work must still, however, be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements.

EXTENSIONS

If you are given an extension, a new submission date will be identified and you will have to submit the work in the same manner as above by 4 p.m. on that day. Failure to do so will result in penalties being applied in the same manner as those for the original submission date. If you need an extension ask Dr Stuart **before** the due date.

Citations and Bibliography

Both essays must contain proper citations. Students may use either in-text citations, or footnotes or endnotes. Your citation format must be consistent. Be sure to include page numbers for citations unless you really are summarising an entire book or article. A good rule to remember is that you should provide enough information about your sources for your reader to be able to trace them.

Both essays must include an alphabeticised bibliography listing works cited in the essay. The bibliography **should not** include works consulted but not cited.

If you are uncertain about how to do citations please consult Dr Stuart.

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>

COURSE WITHDRAWAL

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.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.

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

OTHER 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: _____