

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 1, 2011

Trimester dates: 28 February to 2 July 2011

Teaching dates: 28 February to 3 June 2011

Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 1 May 2011

COURSE COORDINATOR: DR MIKE LLOYD

Room 1015, Murphy Building

Tel: (04) 463 5678

Email: mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: TUESDAY 9–10AM & THURSDAY 9-11AM: EA026

COURSE COORDINATOR

Mike Lloyd
Murphy building, MY 1015
Tel: 04 463 5678
E-mail: mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS

by appointment

SCHOOL LOCATION

Sociology programme staff are located on level 10 of the Murphy Building. School noticeboards are on level 9 and 10, Murphy Building. Notices concerning this course will be posted on the level 9 noticeboard.

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 term social organisation is one way to summarise what Sociology is about: people doing things together in an organised fashion. This course examines theories of social organisation, contrasting them with the theoretical movement known as social constructionism. The course also considers empirical research, topics covered including discourse and communication; space and materiality; embodiment; emotions and other social forces; and new forms of social movement. 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?

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

Mar 1	Introduction to the course
Mar 3	Sociology: Indignation and critique?
Mar 8	Popular psychology
Mar 10	The social construction of ...
Mar 15	Social organisation: keywords
Mar 17	Habit and action
Mar 22	Language in action
Mar 24	Tutorial 1
Mar 29	Doing things with things
Mar 31	Tutorial 2
Apr 5	Rules and tricks of the trade
Apr 7	<i>Class Test</i>
Apr 12	Critical evaluation
Apr 14	Topic to be announced

APRIL 18 – 30 MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

May 3	Cultural studies and banality
May 5	Tutorial 3
May 9	Assignment one due
May 10	Organising the end of life
May 12	Guest lecture
May 17	Planning session for student seminars
May 19	Tutorial 4
May 24	Student seminars
May 26	Student seminars
May 31	Student seminars
Jun 2	Student seminars and course conclusion
Jun 13	Assignment two due

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

There are four tutorials for this course run on the dates indicated on the lecture programme. 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.

BLACKBOARD/COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The BlackBoard resource will be used for basic communication between the course coordinator and the class. It will also be used for posting summary lecture notes, often a copy of the power point slides used during lectures. Other additional information related to SOSC 305 will be communicated via BlackBoard.

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 and Social Policy staff and postgraduate students.

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 \$39.00

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 of the trimester 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 at 5pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

Contents of Student Notes:

- Blumer, H. (1954). "What is Wrong with Social Theory?", in *American Sociological Review*, Volume 19 (1), pp. 3-10. ISSN 0003-1224.
- Erikson, K. (2008). "On Sociological Writing", in *Sociological Inquiry*, Volume 78 (3), pp. 399-411. ISSN 0038-0245.
- Smith, D. (2008). "From the 14th floor to the Sidewalk", in *Sociological Inquiry*, Volume 78 (3), pp. 417-422. ISSN 0038-0245.
- 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. ISBN 0-374-52863-2
- 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. ISBN 0-374-52863-2.
- Latour, B. (2004). "The Social as Association", in *The Future of Social Theory*. London: Continuum, pp. 77-90. ISBN 0-826-47065-3.
- 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. ISBN 0-374-52863-2.
- Harris, S. (2008). "Constructionism in Sociology" in *Handbook of Constructionist Research*, J. Hostein & J. Gubrium (Eds.), New York: Guildford Press, pp. 231-47. ISBN 978-1-59385-305-1.
- Lynch, M. (2008). "Ethnomethodology as a Provocation to Constructionism" in *Handbook of Constructionist Research*, J. Hostein & J. Gubrium (Eds.), New York: Guildford Press, pp. 715-31. ISBN 978-1-59385-305-1.
- Elder-Vass, D. (2010). "Organisations" in D. Elder-Vass *The Causal Power of Social Structures*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 144-68. ISBN 978-0-521-19445-7.
- Passoth, J-H, & Rowland, N. (2010). "Actor-Network State", in *International Sociology*, Volume 78 (3), pp. 399-411. ISSN 0038-0245.
- McLennan, G. (2004). "Beyond Cultural Studese", review article in *New Zealand Sociology*, Volume 25 (6), pp. 818-841. ISSN 0112-921X.
- Beatson, P. (1996). Book Review of Claudia Bell "Inventing New Zealand: Everyday Myths of Pakeha Identity", in *Sites*, No. 32 (Autumn), pp. 118-124. ISSN 0002-9602.
- 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.
- 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.
- Molotch, H and McClain, N. (2008). "Things at Work", in *Journal of Consumer Culture*, Volume 8 (1), pp. 35-67. ISSN 1469-5405.
- Lawton, J. (1998). "Contemporary Hospice Care", in *Sociology of Health and Illness*, Volume 20 (2), pp. 121-143. ISSN 0141-9889.
- Scott, S. (2009). "Reclothing the Emperor: The Swimming Pool as a Negotiated Order", in *Symbolic Interaction*, Volume 32 (2), pp. 123-145. ISSN 0195-6086.
- Martin, A. & Lynch, M. (2009). "Counting Things and People", in *Social Problems*, Volume 56 (2), pp. 243-66. ISSN 0037-7791.

- Kullman, K. (2009). "Enacting Traffic Spaces", in *Space and Culture*, Volume 12 (2), pp. 205-17. ISSN 1368-4310.
- Collins, R. (2009). "The Micro-sociology of Violence", in *British Journal of Sociology*, Volume 60 (3), pp. 565-76. ISSN 0007-1315.
- Klusemann, S. (2010). "Micro-situational Antecedents of Violent Atrocity", in *Sociological Forum*, Volume 25 (2), pp. 272-95. ISSN 1368-4310.
- Campbell, B. (2010). "Contradictory Behavior During Genocides", in *Sociological Forum*, Volume 25 (2), pp. 296-314. 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

Weighting: 30%

Due: during class time, Thursday April 7

The test is based on the material covered in the first 11 class sessions, including some readings that will be specified from the course book of readings. 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, Monday May 9

Suggested length: 2500 words

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, specifically the 'critical evaluation' lecture on April 12.

Essay or Seminar Presentation

Weighting: 35%

Essay due: 4pm, Monday June 13

Seminar due: during class time, date TBC

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 May 17 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	1/2
20	1
30	1 1/2
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.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at:

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

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

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: _____