

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 415**

Contemporary Issues in the  
Sociology of Morality & Ethics

# Course Outline

CRN 15486: 30 POINTS: TRIM 1+2/2012

*Teaching dates: 5 March 2012 – 17 November 2012*

*Mid-trimester break Trimester 1/3: 6-22 April 2012*

*Mid-trimester break Trimester 2/3: 27 August-9 September 2012*

**COURSE CO-ORDINATOR: DR RHONDA SHAW**

*Room 1007, Murphy Building*

*Tel: (04) 463 6134*

*E-mail: [rhonda.shaw@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:rhonda.shaw@vuw.ac.nz)*

---

**SEMINARS: FRIDAY 1 – 3PM: MY 401**

---

## **COURSE CO-ORDINATOR AND LECTURER**

Dr Rhonda Shaw  
Room: Level 10, Murphy building, MY1007  
Telephone: (04) 463 6134  
E-mail: [rhonda.shaw@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:rhonda.shaw@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office Hours: by arrangement

## **CLASS TIMES AND LOCATION**

Seminars: Friday 1-3pm in Murphy Building 401

## **PROGRAMME LOCATION**

The Sociology Programme is located in the Murphy Building. The staff offices are on level 10 and the School Office is on level 9, which is generally open from 8.30am – 4.30pm.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF CONTACT**

Dr. Rhonda Shaw is responsible for the administration of SOSC 415 as the course co-ordinator. If you have an urgent query, and the course co-ordinator is not available, leave a message with the administrators at the school office.

## **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

## **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information related to SOSC 415 will be communicated via Blackboard or e-mail.

## **OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Head of School:	Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013 Tel: 463 5676 E-m: <a href="mailto:allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz">allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz</a>
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine MY1023 Tel: 463 6132 E-m: <a href="mailto:hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz">hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz</a>
Maori and Pacific Student Liaison	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Tel: 463 54328 E-m: <a href="mailto:trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz">trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz</a>
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120 Tel: 463 9980 E-m: <a href="mailto:russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz">russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz</a>
School Manager:	Carol Hogan, MY918 Tel: 463 6546 E-m: <a href="mailto:carol.hogan@vuw.ac.nz">carol.hogan@vuw.ac.nz</a>
School Administrators:	Monica Lichti, Alison Melling, Helen Beaglehole, MY921, Tel: 463 5317, 463 5258, 463 5677, E-m: <a href="mailto:sacs@vuw.ac.nz">sacs@vuw.ac.nz</a>

## **COURSE PRESCRIPTION**

This course will explore the kinds of contributions sociologists can make to debates about ethics. It will cover theoretical approaches that place the question of ethics and moral life on the sociological agenda, including debates about research ethics in the social sciences. The second part of the course will cover recent discussions in the social sciences and bioethics about giving and exchanging bodily fluids, tissues, and organs.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

This course is divided into two sections. Part I introduces students to a variety of theoretical approaches that place the question of ethics and moral life on the sociological agenda. Part II deals with substantive issues in moral theory and ethics in light of recent discussions about giving and exchanging bodily fluids, tissues and organs.

## **COURSE DELIVERY**

A one two-hour seminar per week will offer students a broad, general introduction to each topic area. The seminars will involve an introduction to the general topic area under discussion, and a participatory discussion involving close readings and analysis of weekly articles or essays. The

weekly seminar class is designed to encourage students to critically reflect on issues in light of their own experiences, and in relation to the literature.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT**

Lectures are not compulsory. However, class attendance is an integral part of the learning process. In lectures you will learn about and discuss important ideas. Through formal and informal discussion you will be supported in exploring ideas and developing your assignments.

This course is 100% internally assessed (there is no final examination). Your final mark will be made up of three components:

### **PRECIS- (8 x 500 words: worth 40% of final mark)**

**Due date: 4pm Tuesday each week from 20 March until 5 June 2012**

On the Tuesday before each Friday seminar, you are required to submit a 500 word précis of the assigned readings for the upcoming week.

### **RESEARCH ESSAY**

**Due date: 4pm Friday 19 October 2012**

**Weighting: 40%**

**Word count: 5000 - 6000 words**

This assignment is a substantive research essay designed to put the theories in Part I of the course to the empirical test. Students will choose topics in consultation with the lecturer. More information about this assignment will be made available to students in Trimester 2.

### **SEMINAR PRESENTATION**

**Due date: during trimester 2 in-class,  
date to be arranged with course coordinator**

**Weighting: 20%**

The seminar presentations will commence in the second trimester. Dates for seminar presentations will be arranged at the beginning of the course. Students will also be required to select one topic from the second part of the course for discussion in a seminar presentation. Ideally, the seminar presentation will form the basis of your substantive essay. The aim of the exercise is to see how well you can explain, clarify, or resolve issues using theories you have been learning about in lectures and from your reading.

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To meet mandatory course requirements you must:

- Submit 8 weekly précis assignments of the assigned readings
- Submit the research essay
- Complete the seminar presentation

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

You should expect to spend, on average 10 hours a week across the course, including class contact hours, on meeting the requirements of this course.

## EXTENSIONS ON DUE DATES

Assignments are due on the dates stated. If for some serious reason you don't think you can get work in on time, see your course co-ordinator in advance of the due date and discuss the problem. Extensions of time are not permitted except for illness, or bereavements.

## COURSE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

If you decide for ANY reason at ANY stage to withdraw from SOSC 415 (or any other course) please check the Information on withdrawals and refunds at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx> 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.

## ASSIGNMENT BOX

Assignments must be placed in the assignment box on level 9 of the Murphy Building by 4 pm on the due date.

*They MUST NOT be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to the lecturer.*

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 Office staff will empty the box, date-stamp work and record its receipt, before handing it to the appropriate markers.

*Students must always make and keep a photocopy of the assignment before handing it in. Faxed or e-mailed assignments will not be accepted.*

Unless students have followed this procedure, we will accept no responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in.

### *Identifying your Essay or Assignment – Cover Sheet*

Please include the School's Assignment Cover Sheet (a sample of which can be found at the end of this Outline) as a front sheet when submitting your assignments. This ensures that you have provided essential information. You may wish to have a front page of your own on your assignment, but the top sheet must be the School's Assignment Cover Sheet. Further copies can be found at the School's Administration office on level 9 of Murphy building, and also on the School's assignment box (level 9 Murphy, beside the lifts).

Maree Family Name: Lovegrove

### **GRADES**

Sociology and Social Policy 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
	A	80% - 84%
	A-	75% - 79%
	B+	70% - 74%
	B	65% - 69%
	B-	60% - 64%
	C+	55% - 59%
	C	50% - 54%

FAILURE:	D	40% - 49%
	E	Below 40%

All the instructors are requested to make sure that each student is informed about the above system of assessment.

### **PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSION**

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.

Mark out of maximum of:	Then deduct the following marks for each day it is late
10	½
20	1

30	1½
40	2

Where the due date is a Friday, any written work not handed in by 4 pm will be liable to a two-day penalty. To be effective, this policy will be consistently applied in all Sociology and Social Policy courses.

## WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress).

Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://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/avcademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic).

Information for Māori Students: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents.aspx) or [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/tpa/index](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index)

Information for Pasifika students: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents.aspx) or [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/tpa/index](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index)

## ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities in examinations and other assessment procedures. Please contact the course coordinators, in the first instance, for information on how to make arrangements for this.

## 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>



**Office use only**

Date Received:

(Date Stamp)

# 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 (e.g. SOSC 112): \_\_\_\_\_

Tutorial Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutorial Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_