

TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI



**VICTORIA**  
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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, 2013**

*Trimester dates: 4 March – 3 July 2013*

*Teaching dates: 4 March – 7 June 2013*

*Easter break: 28 March – 3 April 2013*

*Mid-trimester break trimester: 22-28 April 2013*

**COURSE COORDINATOR: DR MIKE LLOYD**

*Room 1015, Murphy Building*

*Tel: (04) 463 5678*

*Email: [mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz)*

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**LECTURES: MONDAY 3–4 PM & WEDNESDAY 3-5PM: MY632**

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**COURSE COORDINATOR**

Mike Lloyd  
Murphy building, MY 1015  
Tel: 04 463 5678  
E-mail: [mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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 PRESCRIPTION**

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.

**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?

## LECTURES: MONDAY 3–4 PM & WEDNESDAY 3-5PM: MY632

### LECTURE PROGRAMME

March 4	Introduction to the course
March 6	Sociology: Indignation and critique?
March 11	Popular psychology
March 13	The social construction of ...
March 18	Social organisation: keywords
March 20	Habit and action
March 25	Critical evaluation 1: General principles
March 27	Critical evaluation 2: Seeing through example

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#### *MARCH 28 – APRIL 3 EASTER BREAK*

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April 8	Communicating signs
April 10	Doing things with things
	<i>April 12 Assignment 1 due</i>
April 15	Tutorial
April 17	Rules and tricks of the trade

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#### *APRIL 22 – APRIL 28 MID-TRIMESTER BREAK*

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April 29	Tutorial
May 1	Analytical session preparation lecture: violence and humour
May 6	Analytical session
May 8	Analytical session
	<i>May 10 Assignment 2 due</i>
May 13	Analytical session
May 15	Planning session for student seminars
May 20	Student seminars
May 22	Student seminars
May 27	Student seminars
May 29	Student seminars
June 5	Student seminars/course conclusion

*June 7 Assignment 3 due*

## 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 (all assignment work, analytical sessions)
- Think critically about sociological arguments (all assignment work)

## TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

There are two specified 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. Tutorials after the midterm break turn into analytical sessions (see below).

## ANALYTICAL SESSIONS

Four class sessions in the course are devoted to 'analytical sessions'. This equates to something like a hands-on tutorial about how to begin sociological analysis. We will be looking at some social data, introduced by a preparation lecture on 'violence and humour', and engaging in discussion and practical activity about how best to develop sociological analysis of such material. There is no guarantee of success in this endeavour, but students should at least learn about the practicalities of developing their sociological thinking in reference to empirical material.

## 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>, 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 vicbooks.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre Foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks, Easterfield Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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 Student Notes:**

#### **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 14<sup>th</sup> floor to the Sidewalk", in *Sociological Inquiry*, Volume 78 (3), pp. 417-422.

#### **Reading 4:**

Cole, S. (2001) "Introduction: The social construction of sociology", in S. Coles (ed.) *What's Wrong with Sociology?*, New Brunswick: Transaction, pp. 7-37.

#### **Reading 5:**

Molotch, H. (1994). "Going Out" in *Sociological Forum*, Volume 9(2), pp. 221-239.

#### **Reading 6:**

Ellis, C. & Bochner, A.P. (2001). "Writing from Sociology's Periphery", in S. Coles (ed.) *What's Wrong with Sociology?*, New Brunswick: Transaction, pp. 341-372

#### **Reading 7:**

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 8:**

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 9:**

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 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:**

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

**Reading 13:**

Dolwick, J.S. (2009) “‘The Social’ and Beyond”, in *Journal of Maritime Architecture*, 4, pp 21-49.

**Reading 14:**

Kilpinen, E. (2009) ‘The Habitual Conception of Action and Social Theory’, in *Semiotica*, 173(1): 99-128.

**Reading 15:**

King, A. & de Rond, M. (2011) ‘Boat Race: Rhythm and the Possibility of Collective Performance’, in *British Journal of Sociology*, 62(4): 565-585.

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To meet mandatory course requirement for this course you must:

- ✓ Either, submit 3 assignments
- ✓ Or, submit 2 assignments and present a seminar.

## **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 a critical discussion essay, the second a reflection on a symposium on sociology’s future, and for the third students can choose between a written essay or a seminar presentation.

***Assignment 1. Essay (Critical discussion piece)***

***Weighting: 30%***

***Due: 4pm, Friday April 12***

***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. 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 two 'critical evaluation' lectures.

***Assignment 2. Essay on 'progress in sociology'***

***Weighting: 35%***

***Due: 4pm, Friday May 10***

***Suggested length: 2500 words***

This essay calls for you to respond to a symposium offering different views on the future of sociology and how it can be improved. Identification of the source material and clarification of the assignment will be given in class time.

***Assignment 3. Essay or Seminar Presentation***

***Weighting: 35%***

***Essay due: 4pm, Friday June 7***

***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 the previous assignments.
- There is a planning session on May 15 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

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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.

### **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>

### **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/withdrawalsrefund>

## **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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar) (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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic)

## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

Student Learning and Support also run study skills workshops specific to Māori and Pasifika students which students could be referred to for help:

Information for Māori Students:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents) 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents) or

[www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/tpa/index](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index)

## **SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Head of School:

Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013

Tel: 463 5676 E-m: [allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz)

International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023  
Tel: 463 6132 E-m: [hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz)

Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101  
Tel: 463 5432 E-m: [trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz)

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

School Manager: Carol Hogan, MY918  
Tel: 463 6546 E-m: [carol.hogan@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:carol.hogan@vuw.ac.nz)

School Administrators: Suzanne Weaver, Alison Melling, Helen Beaglehole  
MY921, Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677  
E-m: [sacs@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_