



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC 401

Rethinking the Social

30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 and 2, 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 16 October 2015

Easter/

Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Mid-year break: 2–12 July 2015

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last Assessment Item due: 16 October 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Seminars are held weekly on Fridays 1:10 pm - 3:00 pm in Von Zedlitz VZ105.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Chamsy el-Ojeili
Murphy Building, MY 1016
Phone: 04 463 6740
Email: chamsy.el-ojeili@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: TBA

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be provided in class and by email.

Prescription

This course explores a number of key debates and paradigms in contemporary sociological theory. Students will explore the development of social theory, from the work of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, up until the contemporary thinkers such as Latour, Alexander, Butler, Urry, and Beck. This course will also focus on crucial themes and influential paradigms in social theory.

Course content

An outline of seminar topics and set readings will be given to students in class.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students will be expected to follow the work of one thinker very closely and produce a critical essay on this body of work, drawing on the major themes and competing paradigms covered in the course.

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. be familiar with the major transformations, challenges, and debates within social theorising
2. be familiar with the work of major contributors to these debates
3. evaluate these contributions.

Teaching format

Weekly 2-hour seminars, focused on group discussion of set readings from the course textbook.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. submit essay one and two.

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore a 30-point course equates to 300 hours over the trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

Assessment

This course is 100% internally assessed. Assessment consists of two essays, both worth 50% of your final grade.

Topics for both essays should be discussed with the course coordinator.

Assessment items		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay 1 (5,000 words)	50%	1,2,3	26 June
2	Essay 2 (5,000 words)	50%	1,2,3	16 Oct

Essay 1

Weighting: 50%

Word limit: 5,000 words

Due date: 26 June

Write a critical essay on a central sociological debate or theme covered in the first part of the course.

Essay 2

Weighting: 50%

Word limit: 5,000 words

Due date: 16 October

Select a contemporary theorist and write a critical essay examining their work in the context of challenges posed to sociological theory.

Marking Criteria

Essays will be graded on the breadth and depth of research, on the clarity of understanding of thinkers and subjects treated, on the strength of the evaluative-critical work done, and on the quality of the writing.

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted at the School of Social and Cultural Studies essay box on the 9th floor of the Murphy Building. Essays will be returned in class.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Students must speak to the course coordinator before the due date if seeking an extension.

Penalties

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy courses are subject to a penalty, unless a medical certificate is provided or an emergency prevents submission on due date. 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: 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.

You are advised to always keep a copy of any work you submit for assessment.

Set texts

The course text is (Lemert, C.) 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global and Classic Readings*, 5th edition (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Available from vicbooks, ground floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Campus

This text will be available from Vic Books. 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.

Recommended reading

A list of recommended readings will be sent to students by email.

Some useful social theory texts include: Allen, K. *The Social Lens*; Allen, K. *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*; Calhoun, C. et al (eds) *Contemporary Sociological Theory*; Sage *Handbook of Sociology*; Callinicos, A. *Social Theory: A Historical Introduction*; Clark, S. *From Enlightenment to Risk: Social Theory and Contemporary Society*; Collins, R & Makowsky, M. *The Discovery of Society*; Craib, I. *Classical Social Theory; Modern Social Theory*; Elliott, A. *Contemporary Social Theory: An Introduction*; Elliott, A. & Ray, L. (eds) *Key Contemporary Social Theorists*; Garner, R. (ed.) *Social Theory (Two Volumes)*; Hughes, J. et al *Understanding Classical Sociology*; Latour, B. *Reassembling the Social*; Layder, D. *Understanding Social Theory*; McLennan, G. *Story of Sociology*; O'Donnell, M. *Classical and Contemporary Sociology*; Outhwaite, W. *The Future of Society*; Ray, L. *Theorizing Classical Sociology*; Ritzer, G. *Sociological Theory*; Ritzer, G. (ed) *Encyclopaedia of Social Theory*; Ritzer, G. & Smart, B. (eds) *Handbook of Social Theory*; Ritzer, G. and Stepnisky, J (eds) *Major Social Theorists, Vols I and II*; Roberts. B. *Micro Social Theory*; Scott, J. *Social Theory*; Scott, J. (ed) *Fifty Key Sociologists*; Seidman, S. *Contested Knowledge: Social Theory in the Postmodern Era*; Stones, R. (ed.) *Key Sociological Thinkers*; Swingewood, A. *A Short History of Sociological Thought*; Tucker, K. *Classical Social Theory*; Turner, B. (ed) *Blackwell Companion to Social Theory*; Urry, J. *Sociology Beyond Societies; Mobilities*.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats

- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

Head of School:	Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013 Phone: 463 5676, Email: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine, MY1023 Phone: 463 6132, Email: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz
Māori and Pacific Student Liaison:	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Phone: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120 Phone: 463 9980, Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz
School Manager:	La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918 Phone: 463 6546, Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz
School Administrators:	Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling, MY921, Phone: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677, Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz
School of Social and Cultural Studies:	www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs