



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Sociology and Social Policy

SPOL 306

Social Inequality

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Study period: 8–12 June 2015

Last piece of assessment due: 15 June 2015

Note: students who enrol in courses with assessments in the examination period must be able to attend the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

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

Lectures: Monday 2:10 pm – 3:00 pm in Easterfield EALT206
Thursday 2:10 pm – 4:00 pm Easterfield EALT206

Tutorials: There will be 9 tutorials for this course. Tutorials meet weekly beginning in week two of the trimester. Tutorial times and names of tutors will be posted on Blackboard; instructions will be posted on Blackboard.
Once you have committed to a particular tutorial time you cannot change unless discussed with course coordinator.

Names and contact details

The staff member with overall responsibility for this course is Dylan Taylor, who is available to discuss any student queries about the course and assessment.

Course Coordinator Dylan Taylor
Murphy Building, MY 1004
Tel: 04 463 5371
Email: dylan.taylor@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: 12.30 to 2pm Tuesdays

Communication of additional information

Any additional course information will be posted on Blackboard. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to forward messages received from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they receive all course related communications.

Prescription

An introduction to theories of social inequality and their application to New Zealand.

Course content

Date	Topic	Readings - notes
2 & 5 March Lectures 1 & 2	Introduction – Equality and Inequality	All readings will be posted on Blackboard at least two weeks prior to relevant lectures and tutorials
9 & 12 March Lectures 3 & 4	Social Stratification and Division	
16 & 19 March Lectures 5 & 6	Class and Inequality	
23 & 26 March Lectures 7 & 8	The State and Inequality	
30 March & 2 April Lectures 9 & 10	Gender and Inequality	
27 March Essay 1 Due		

BREAK		
20 & 23 April Lectures 11 & 12	Ethnicity, and inequality	
30 April 30 Lecture 13	Multiple Inequalities	
4 & 7 May Lectures 14 & 15	The Colonial Legacy	
11 May Take-home test Due (test handed out 30 April)		
11 & 14 May Lectures 16 & 17	Welfare State and Crisis	
18 & 21 May Lectures 18 & 19	Neoliberalism	
25 & 30 May Lectures 20 & 21	Contemporary Inequalities	
4 June Lecture 22	Conclusions	
STUDY WEEK		
15 June Essay 2 Due		

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate familiarity with theories of inequality and the problems of defining social inequality;
2. demonstrate knowledge of the conceptual issues relating to class, gender, race and ethnicity;
3. critically reflect on debates about how different facets of social inequality are or are not inter-related;
4. and have the skills to join in debates about how class, gender and ethnic divisions relate to selected periods of New Zealand history and major shifts in state policy in past and present times.

Within the course students will:

- develop critical analysis skills;
- collect, collate, and analyse both primary and secondary data;
- be encouraged to write clearly and in a sound academic style, i.e. to produce an argument and marshal evidence for it;
- and be encouraged to attend lectures and tutorials to debate key social issues facing society and appreciate different viewpoints.

Teaching format

Lectures and tutorials.

While attendance at lectures are not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend them, and will be advantaged if they do so.

Students must attend at least 5 of the 9 scheduled tutorials.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- complete two essays
- complete the take-home test
- attend at least 5 of the scheduled tutorials.

Workload

The expectations are that students will work around 10 hours per point, therefore a 20-point course equates to 200 hours over the trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks. Each student will vary on the amount of time they will need to put into assignments and readings. On average it is expected that students will spend about 35 hours on the first essay; about 35 hours on the take-home test; and, about 40 hours on the second essay. The rest of the time is spent in class (four hours per week); doing readings (about four hours per week); and in self-directed revision or in group discussions to help understand the broad thrust of the theories and empirical work on inequalities.

Assessment

This course is 100% internally assessed and requires three pieces of work (two essays and a take home test).

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay 1 (2,500 words)	30%	1, 2	27 March
2	Take-home test. (The test will be handed out during the lecture on Thursday, 30 April. It contains two essay type questions. Word limit 2,500.)	30%	1, 2, 3	11 May
3	Essay 2 (3,000 words)	40%	3, 4	15 June

Essay 1

Length: 2,500 words

Due: 27 March

Weighting: 30%

Choose ONE of the following questions, drawing on the course readings and other sources, and use particular examples of equality/inequality to illustrate your answer.

1. Inequality requires us to explore the meaning of equality. Critically discuss.
2. Inequality is an entirely relative concept. Critically discuss.
3. Class still an important category when assessing inequality today. Critically discuss.

The above essay questions are deliberately general. Several of the course readings are designed to assist answering this assignment and you should draw from them explicitly, but please feel free to move beyond them. All the essays can be approached in multi-disciplinary ways. You can

certainly remain at a general theoretical level in shaping your answer, and by all means draw on comparative material, but many students may be more comfortable choosing a particular society and drawing upon a specific area(s) of inequality/equality to illustrate and support your answer. Providing a narrower focus is a good rule to follow when answering these questions so as to make their general scope more manageable. There will be time set aside within the tutorial programme to discuss the essay and how best to tackle it.

Take-home test

Weighting: 30%

Length: 2,500 words maximum

Due: 11 May

The Take-home test will consist of an essay type question, and five short answer questions. The paper will be in two sections. In Section A students will answer a single compulsory essay question relating to the course as a whole (word limit 1,250); in Section B they will be asked to choose five questions from a list of ten, and to provide short answers to these questions (not exceeding 250 words per question).

All questions on the Test paper will be drawn solely from the lecture content and the Course Readings posted to Black Board, so please ensure you have good notes and that you have read all Course Readings.

The Test has a maximum length of 2,500 words (i.e. the total combined words for both answers).

Essay 2

Weighting: 40%

Length: 3,000 words

Due: 15 June

Devise your own essay question to explore the ways that social inequality is shaped, represented, experienced, negotiated, and challenged in everyday life and/or social policy. For example, you might:

- choose a time period (or periods) and examine the general patterns of social inequality within it;
- contrast the position of particular social groups or categories affected by social disadvantage; or,
- examine a particular feature of social inequality within New Zealand. For example: the impact of changes in income and benefit levels, discrimination in the job/or property market, changes in citizenship and migration patterns, recognition of indigenous rights.

Essay 2 has a maximum length of 3,000 words.

Suggested word lengths for the essays are intended as an approximate guide to students. You will certainly not be penalised for clear, concise and logically argued essays under the number of words suggested. However, you will be penalised if you exceed the word-count with an undisciplined, verbose essay.

Submission and return of work

Submit a paper copy to the Assignment Box at the SACS Administration Office, Level 9, Murphy Building (to the side of the lifts), by 4pm on the due date. Your essay **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm every day. All work is date-stamped, recorded and then handed to the appropriate markers.

Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm only from Monday to Friday**.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Assignments are due on the dates stated. If for some serious reason you don't think you can get an essay in on time, see Dylan **prior** to the due date and discuss the problem.

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: 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.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

There are no additional materials required for this course.

Set texts

All readings will be posted on Blackboard at least two weeks prior to relevant lectures and tutorials. It is each student's responsibility to download/print these texts.

Recommended reading

Further readings will be recommended during lectures and some additional material will be posted to Blackboard.

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 might 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, include:

1. voluntary multi-choice quizzes will be placed on Blackboard at the end of the week for students to reinforce their learning (to be confirmed following discussion with current students in this course)
2. material from the PowerPoint slides used in lectures will be placed on Blackboard.

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

Acting Head of School:	Dr Chamsy el-Ojeili, MY1016 Phone: 463 6740, Email: chamsy.el-ojeili@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
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School of Social and Cultural Studies:	www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs



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Essay Cover Sheet

Student Name:.....

Assessment:.....

Assessment Due:.....

Tutorial (day/time):.....

Tutor's Name:.....

I acknowledge that the work in this assessment is my own and contains no plagiarised material,

Signed:.....

Office Use

Date Essay Received: