



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY

SOSC 112

New Zealand: Sociological Perspectives

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Study period: 6–9 June 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 10–29 June 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at 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 in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 12:00pm – 1:00 pm in New Kirk LT303

Tutorials: There will be 9 tutorials for this course. Tutorials meet weekly beginning in week three of the trimester. Tutorial times and names of tutors will be posted on Blackboard.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Associate Professor Rhonda Shaw

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Course Coordinator: Dr Ben Snyder

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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.

Prescription

The sociological analysis of New Zealand society.

Course content

March 1	Introduction
March 3	What is sociology? (BS)
March 8	Origins of sociology and European modernity (BS)
March 10	Exploring contemporary New Zealand society (BS)
March 15	Diversity, stratification, and inequality (BS)
March 17	Aotearoa/New Zealand as a settler society (BS)
March 22	Power, status, class, and ethnicity (BS)
March 31	Sociological methods (BS)
April 5	Ethics in research (RS)
April 7	Becoming masculine and feminine (RS)
April 12	Doing Gender (RS)

April 14	Sport and gender performativity (RS)
April 19	Sexuality in Aotearoa/New Zealand (RS)
April 21	Disability in Aotearoa/New Zealand (RS)
May 3	Racial and ethnic differences (BS)
May 5	Racism and resistance (BS)
May 10	Domestic and intimate partner violence (RS)
May 12	Families, identity and diversity (RS)
May 17	New family formations (RS)
May 19	Work and the gendered division of labour (RS)
May 24	What is globalization? (BS)
May 26	Globalization and national identity (BS)
May 31	Youth (sub)cultures and consumerism (BS)
June 2	Conclusion

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

This course aims to introduce you to sociological approaches to the study of New Zealand society.

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Understand and explain a sociological perspective
2. Understand how New Zealand is unique, but also displays similarities with some other societies
3. Critically reflect on how current social patterns in New Zealand reflect a mix of recent changes and historical continuities
4. Understand and discuss how class, ethnicity, gender and age operate in New Zealand society
5. Understand selected aspects of major social processes and key institutions of New Zealand society
6. Explain how these processes and institutions relate to social identities and inequality

Teaching format

Lectures and tutorials.

While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend the lectures.

Tutorials start in week 3. Please note that there are **no** tutorials during the Easter break, from Thursday March 24 to Wednesday March 30. There are 9 tutorials for this course and students are expected to attend at least 6 of them. This will ensure students have the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the core sociological themes explored in the course (see course prescription) and to develop oral communication and teamwork skills through participating in the tutorial exercises. <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables/tutorial-sign-up>

The person to contact about tutorial enrolment is the senior tutor.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must submit all in-term assignments and assessments (Essay 1 and Essay 2) and sit the final 2 hour examination at the end of the course. Students must answer Sections A *and* B in the examination. In order to demonstrate the achievement of all the Course Learning Objectives you must obtain at least 35% for any assignment (i.e., the essays and examination).

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 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.

In addition to attending the lectures (24 hours for the trimester) and tutorials (6 – 9 hours) students can expect to spend on average, approximately 40 hours reading preparation for the course, 30 hours preparing for Essay 1, 25 hours preparing Essay 2, and 35 hours preparing for the Final Examination.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2000 word essay	30	1, 2, 3	4pm, 22 April
2	1500 word essay	20	3, 5, 6	4pm, 3 June
3	Final Examination (2 hours)	50	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Exam period 10–29 June 2016

Essay 1 Weighting: 30%

Due: 4pm, 22 April

Write a 2000 word essay on one of the following 4 topics:

1. 'New Zealand has always been a classless society.' Critically discuss this statement drawing on your knowledge of social class in New Zealand.
2. Hamish wants to know why so many New Zealand university students turn to the internet, rather than a medical professional, to understand their mental health troubles. To study this problem, he sends an email invitation to all incoming first year students at Victoria University of Wellington asking them to take an anonymous online survey about their help-seeking behaviour in regard to mental health. Is this the best way to go about investigating this issue? Why or why not?
3. Discuss how power differentials between researchers and research participants might facilitate unethical research practices. Illustrate your answer with examples.
4. Sport does not construct femininity in the same way as it constructs masculinity. Critically discuss this statement in relation to New Zealand society.

Essay 2 Weighting: 20%

Due: 4pm, 3 June

Write a 1500 word essay on one of the following 4 topics:

1. Jane Kelsey argues that, during the 1980s and 90s, New Zealand engaged in a "failed experiment" with neoliberal economic and social reform. Discuss some of the reforms that she is referring to. What have been some of the outcomes of these changes? Do you agree or disagree with Kelsey that the experiment has failed?
2. Discuss the view that the term family is a form of ideology rather than simply a descriptive concept. Draw on sociological research to support your answer.
3. Drawing on sociological theory, describe and discuss some of the ways in which work in the global economy shapes people's relationships, social interactions, and identities.
4. Youth cultures and subcultures are frequently the subject of moral panics, often generated by the media. Compare and contrast two moral panics in New Zealand that gained widespread media coverage: 1) the Bodgies and the 1954 "Milk Bar Gang" controversy and 2) contemporary concern over the Auckland street gang The Killa Beez.

Marking Criteria

Please refer to the 'Tutorial, Lecture & Essay Writing Guide', which will be handed out at the first lecture and posted on Blackboard.

The Final Examination Weighting: 50% During examination period, 10–29 June 2016.

It will be a closed book exam and 2 hours in length. More information.

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 **11.00 am and 3.00 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 your lecturer or tutor **prior** to the due date and discuss the problem.

Extensions of time are not permitted except for illness, or bereavements.

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.

Set texts

McLennan, Gregor, Paul Spoonley and Ruth McManus (2010) *Exploring Society: Sociology for New Zealand Students* (Third Edition), Auckland: Pearson Education. Available from vicbooks, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Campus

Students are able to order textbooks at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz

Recommended reading

An extensive list of readings related to each set of lectures and assignments will be available as a separate document in the first lecture. This supplementary document, called the Tutorial & Essay Writing Guide will also be available on 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.

Student feedback

In 2015, in response to student feedback, SOSC 112 lectures were video-recorded and made available for student viewing on Blackboard. This practice will be followed in 2016. 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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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

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