



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY

SOSC 305

SOCIAL ORGANISATION

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

Last assessment item due: 13 June 2016

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, 10:00 - 11:50am, Thursday 10:00 - 10:50am in Murphy MYLT102

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Mike Lloyd
Murphy building, MY 1015
Tel: 04 463 5678
Email: mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours

by appointment

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be communicated in lectures and 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 set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

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

Details of the lecture programme will be provided in the first lecture, and thereafter posted on the course Blackboard resource.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Understand 'social organisation' as a term that indicates sociology's subject matter (all assignment work)
2. Understand the manner in which social organisation can be investigated (all assignment work, analytical sessions)
3. Think critically about sociological arguments (all assignment work)

Teaching format

The course is taught by lectures and workshops. The workshops are run in various class sessions and are the equivalent to tutorials. These workshops will be oriented around discussing work for assignments and readings relevant to lecture material. The work required for preparation will be announced on blackboard some time before each workshop. Workshops are not compulsory. After the mid-trimester break the 'analytical sessions' will approximate a tutorial session geared towards discussing empirical data. We will be looking at some data, and engaging in discussion about how best to develop sociological analysis of such material.

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.

Reading for and writing assignments should take approximately 6* hours/week

*These are approximations only, and will shift based on the specific tasks each week.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Assignment 1. Exercise using Sage Research Methods resource 2000 words	30%	1,2,3	4pm 1 April
2	Assignment 2. Essay on 'changes in sociology (2500 words)	35%	1,2,3	4pm 6 May
3	Assignment 3. Essay or Seminar Presentation (2500 words)	35%	1,2,3	4pm 13 June

Assessment is internal and involves three pieces of work. The first is an exercise in reflection on the variety of research methods in contemporary sociology, the second is an essay focused on some selected readings, and for the third students can choose between a written essay or a seminar presentation.

Assignment 1. Exercise using Sage Research Methods resource

Weighting: 30%

Suggested length: 2000 words

Due: 4pm, Friday 1 April

This exercise uses the Sage Research Methods Online resource held in the VUW library. The details of the assignment will be provided at the beginning of the course. Class time will be used to discuss this exercise.

Assignment 2. Essay on 'changes in sociology'

Weighting: 35%

Suggested length: 2500 words

Due: 4pm, Friday 6 May

Details to be provided.

Assignment 3. Essay or Seminar Presentation

Weighting: 35%

Either a 2500 word essay or a seminar presentation on a topic of your own choice

Seminar due: during class time, date TBC

Essay due: 4pm, Monday 13 June

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 will be a planning session 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.

Marking Template

Description & Coverage of Essay Topic	Excellent (Range: A+ to A; 85-100): Concise and thorough description of key themes; synthesizes across readings where appropriate.	Very Good (Range: A- to B; 70-84): Concise and thorough description of key themes; occasional synthesis across readings.	Satisfactory (Range: B- to C-; 50-69): Adequate description of key themes; misses opportunities for synthesis across readings.	Unsatisfactory (Range: D to E; 0-49): Insufficient description of key themes; not an appropriate topic for the assigned essay; no synthesis across readings.
Organisation	Excellent (Range: A+ to A; 85-100): Clear outline of essay including a thesis statement and organisational sentences; follows organisational plan through to the end of the essay.	Very Good (Range: A- to B; 70-84): Clear outline of essay including a thesis statement and organisational sentence; carries the majority of the organisation through to the end of the essay.	Satisfactory (Range: B- to C-; 50-69): An outline of the essay including a thesis statement and organisational sentences are present, but demonstrates difficulty pulling the organisation through to the end of the essay.	Unsatisfactory (Range: D to E; 0-49): Inadequate organization of ideas and arguments.
Expression & Argumentation	Excellent (Range: A+ to A; 85-100): Makes an argument clearly supported by appropriate evidence.	Very Good (Range: A- to B; 70-84): Makes an argument and attempts to support with evidence.	Satisfactory (Range: B- to C-; 50-69): The argument is not clear OR the argument is not supported adequately with evidence.	Unsatisfactory (Range: D to E; 0-49): No argument made AND where assertions made are not supported with evidence.
Insight & Interpretation	Excellent (Range: A+ to A; 85-100): Logical interpretation or application of themes in context of real world examples or theoretical frameworks/course concepts and readings.	Very Good (Range: A- to B; 70-84): Logical interpretation or application of themes, but not adequately discussed in context of real world examples or theoretical frameworks/course concepts and readings.	Satisfactory (Range: B- to C-; 50-69): Logical interpretation or application of themes, but not discussed in context of real world examples or theoretical frameworks/course concepts and readings.	Unsatisfactory (Range: D to E; 0-49): Insufficient interpretation or application of themes; AND fails to set the essay in context of examples or theoretical frameworks/ concepts and readings.
Style	Excellent (Range: A+ to A; 85-100): Clear and accurate writing; error free.	Very Good (Range: A- to B; 70-84): Minor writing problems that do not interfere with comprehension of the essay; minor	Satisfactory (Range: B- to C-; 50-69): Writing problems that distract from comprehension of the essay; minor typographical,	Unsatisfactory (Range: D to E; 0-49): Writing problems inhibit comprehension of the essay; significant typographical,

		typographical, spelling, and punctuation errors.	spelling, and punctuation errors.	spelling, and punctuation errors.
Bibliography & Referencing	Excellent (Range: A+ to A; 85-100): Contains proper and consistent citation and a complete bibliography.	Very Good (Range: A- to B; 70-84): Contains proper citation and a complete bibliography; some consistency errors.	Satisfactory (Range: B- to C-; 50-69): Contains references to authors, but not proper citations. Complete bibliography; some errors in consistency and format.	Unsatisfactory (Range: D to E; 0-49): No references are used and no bibliography is included.

Based on rubric by Angela M. Eikenberry, 2006; Modified by Patricia Nickel and Sandra Grey, 2008

Appendix B from Assessment Handbook: Course grades and overall qualification results

1. Course grade ranges and indicative characterisations

Pass/fail Grade Normal range Midpoint Indicative characterisation

Pass A+ 90%–100% 95 Outstanding performance

A 85%–89% 87 Excellent performance

A- 80%–84% 82 Excellent performance in most respects

B+ 75%–79% 77 Very good performance

B 70%–74% 72 Good performance

B- 65%–69% 67 Good performance overall, but some weaknesses

C+ 60%–64% 62 Satisfactory to good performance

C 55%–59% 57 Satisfactory performance

C- 50%–54% 52 Adequate evidence of learning

Fail D 40%–49% 45 Poor performance overall, some evidence of learning

E 0–39% 20 Well below the standard required

K Fail due to not satisfying mandatory course requirements, even though the student's numerical course mark reached the level specified for a pass, usually 50%.

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 supervisor **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

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

Set texts and recommended reading

There is no set text for this course. Links to relevant reading material will be provided on the course Blackboard resource.

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

Due to student feedback - enhancements have been made to bolster the 'Analytic Sessions' section of 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
- 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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