



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY

SOSC 401

RETHINKING THE SOCIAL

30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 and 2, 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 16 October 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Mid-year break: 30 June to 8 July 2016

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 22 August to 4 September 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: Seminars are held weekly on Tuesdays 11:00 - 12:50 24 Kelburn Pde KP24101

Names and contact details

The staff member with overall responsibility for this course is Chamsy el-Ojeili, who is available to discuss any student queries about the course and assessment.

Course Coordinator

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 communicated in seminars or by email. If you are not going to use the 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

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 should 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.

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

Assessment items		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay 1 (5,000 words)	50%	1,2,3	17 June
2	Essay 2 (5,000 words)	50%	1,2,3	14 Oct

Essay 1

Weighting: 50%

Word limit: 5,000 words

Due date: 17 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: 14 October

Select a contemporary theorist, paradigm, or problem and write a critical essay exploring the thinker/issue 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

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

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.

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

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.

Student feedback

Student evaluations from 2016 will be used to rework 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

Head of School:	Prof Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, MY1019 Phone: 463 6528, Email: brigitte.bonisch-brednich@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 Sarah Wright, MY1115 Phone: 463 5874, Email: sarah.wright@vuw.ac.nz
School Manager:	La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918 Phone: 463 6546, Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz
School Administrators:	Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Gill Blomgren, MY921, Phone: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677, Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz
School of Social and Cultural Studies:	www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs