



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY

SOSC 418

WORK AND THE CULTURE OF CAPITALISM

30 POINTS

TRIMESTERS 1 & 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: Monday 13:10 - 15:00 24 Kelburn Pde KP24, room 101

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Dr Benjamin Snyder

Murphy Bldg, MY 1020

Tel: 04 463 6748

Email: benjamin.snyder@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00pm – 3:00pm

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, I strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

This course explores the meaning of work in capitalist societies, focusing especially on the United States, United Kingdom, and New Zealand. It examines leading theories of how capitalism has changed during the late 20th and early 21st centuries and the implications of those changes for the meaning of work.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Synthesise competing theories of capitalism into a complex understanding of past and present economic regimes.
2. Analyse how new economic trends are shaping labour markets, the labour process, and the meaning of work.
3. Generate discussion and synthesise peers' views of complex topics in a group conversation.

Teaching format

The course will be taught in a seminar format with one 2-hour class per week over trimesters 1 and 2 (24 total). The seminars will focus on participatory discussion of weekly readings.

Workload

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

In addition to attending the lectures (54 hours over two trimesters) students can expect to spend on average, 80-90 hours reading preparation, 20-30 hours preparing reading responses, 10-20 hours preparing to lead discussion, and 90-100 hours preparing the final essay. These expectations are meant only to provide a basis for discussion and will vary from student to student.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Discussion memos: 8 written reviews synthesising readings (8*500 words)	40%	1, 2, 3	on or before 23 Sept.
2	Lead in-class discussion: approx. 2-6 hrs (i.e. 1-3 class periods)	10%	1, 2, 3	Various
3	Final essay (5000-6000 words)	50%	1, 2	10 Oct.

1. Discussion memos, 8 written reviews synthesising readings, due before 23 September, SUBMIT ON BLACKBOARD

Write a 500 word reading response that synthesizes course readings. You must write AT LEAST EIGHT of these prior to 23 September. Do not submit all four at once, but spread them out over at least 8 weeks.

These short analytical essays should focus on a particular week's readings, but should not be mere summaries of what has been read. Students should attempt to weave together several authors or ideas from throughout the course. A good reading response will show how ideas connect, compare and contrast authors, or suggest innovative ways of looking at a particular issue covered in the course.

2. Lead in-class discussion

Every week, one or two students will lead the class in discussion. Depending on numbers, each student will be expected to lead AT LEAST 1 and NO MORE THAN 3 class discussions. Dates for each student will be scheduled early in the class in order to distribute the load evenly and accommodate schedules. To best prepare for this assessment:

- a) Read the week's material more closely than usual
- b) Prepare and disseminate a set of discussion questions before class.

3. Final Essay, due 10 October, SUBMIT ON BLACKBOARD

Write a 5000 to 6000 word research paper on a topic of your choice. You must clear the topic with the course coordinator prior to writing the essay.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until the completion of honours moderation. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made at the Honours moderation meeting.

Submission and return of work

All reading responses must be submitted to Blackboard no later than midnight on the due date. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT HARD COPIES. Other than the final essay, work will be returned on Blackboard.

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

There is no set text or book of student notes for this course. All readings will be placed on Blackboard by the Course Coordinator.

Recommended reading

A list of recommended readings is 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

This is the first time the course has been taught, so student feedback is not yet available.

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
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School of Social and Cultural Studies: www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs