



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

**SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY**

**SPOL 306**

**SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

**20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 1 2016**

## **Key dates**

**Trimester dates:** 29<sup>th</sup> February to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Teaching dates:** 29<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Easter break:** 24<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 25<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016

**Last assessment item due:** 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

## **Class times and locations**

**Lectures:** Tuesday 2.10 – 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 1012  
Tel: 04 463 5371  
Email: [dylan.taylor@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:dylan.taylor@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: 3.00pm - 4.30pm Monday

## **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**

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

## **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 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.

## **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	1 <sup>st</sup> April
2	Take-home test. (The test will be handed out during the lecture on Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> May. It contains an essay type question and five short answer questions. Word limit 2,500.)	30%	1, 2, 3	12 <sup>th</sup> May
3	Essay 2 (3,000 words)	40%	3, 4	15 <sup>th</sup> June

### Essay 1

**Weighting: 30%**

**Length: 2,500 words**

**Due: 1<sup>st</sup> April**

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. The state is necessary for the amelioration of inequality. Critically discuss.
3. Class is the most 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 can 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, but you can also choose to focus specifically on New Zealand and use concrete examples to develop your essay. 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: 12<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> June**

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

- choose a time period and examine the general trends 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.

There will be time set aside within the tutorial programme to discuss the essay and how best to tackle it.

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

Suggested word lengths for the essays are intended as approximate guides 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.

**You will also need to submit all assessments (essays and the take home test) to Turnitin.**

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 do not 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. Work must still, however, be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements.

**You are advised to always keep copies (electronic and physical) of any work you submit for assessment.**

### **Set texts**

There is no set text nor book of student notes for this course. All readings will be placed on Blackboard by the Course Coordinator.

### **Recommended reading**

Further readings will be recommended during lectures and some additional material may 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.

## Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, include:

1. Material from the PowerPoint slides used in lectures will be placed on Blackboard.
2. New course material – including expanded discussions of gender and sexuality, and more emphasis upon intersectionality.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://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](mailto:brigitte.bonisch-brednich@vuw.ac.nz)

International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine, MY1023  
Phone: 463 6132, Email: [hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz)

Māori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101  
Phone: 463 5432, Email: [trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz)

Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Sarah Wright, MY1115  
Phone: 463 5874, Email: [sarah.wright@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sarah.wright@vuw.ac.nz)

School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918  
Phone: 463 6546, Email: [lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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](mailto:sacs@vuw.ac.nz)

School of Social and Cultural Studies: [www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs)