



# SOCI703

## Social Theory

S1 Evening 2015

*Dept of Sociology*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Norbert Ebert

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W6A 836

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The unit examines social theory and how this can inform research and the critical project of the social sciences. The theoretical content may vary according to staff expertise and student interest. The unit also provides core theoretical training for those completing a PhD in Sociology. The candidate will acquire advanced disciplinary understanding, awareness of how research is carried out in a disciplinary area and will demonstrate competence in the application of research skills to the disciplinary area.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Remember means to retrieve relevant knowledge to design research with the aid of social theory. Recognise which social theory is need for what topic and recall its main aspects.

Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.

Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and

concise communication.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>participation</u>	15%	ongoing
<u>present essay topic / abstract</u>	15%	31/3/2015
<u>draft essay</u>	30%	12/5/2015
<u>final Essay</u>	40%	2/6/2015

### participation

Due: **ongoing**

Weighting: **15%**

Participation in this units is important. Often we only understand difficult and complex ideas by talking about them. In order to participate you need to do the weekly readings and be able to summarise them in a precise, accurate and concise manner.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Remember means to retrieve relevant knowledge to design research with the aid of social theory. Recognise which social theory is need for what topic and recall its main aspects.
- Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.
- Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and concise communication.

### present essay topic / abstract

Due: **31/3/2015**

Weighting: **15%**

Social theory can be confusing and overwhelming. One of the goals of this course is to develop strategies for dealing with complex topics and how to write about them. In week 6 we ask you to:

Develop / define a topic for your essay and write and present in class an abstract of 200 words in week 6.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Remember means to retrieve relevant knowledge to design research with the aid of social theory. Recognise which social theory is need for what topic and recall its main aspects.
- Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.
- Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and concise communication.

## draft essay

Due: **12/5/2015**

Weighting: **30%**

On the basis of your choice of topic and the presentation of your abstract we ask you to draft an essay of 3000 words. The draft essay is due in week 10.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Remember means to retrieve relevant knowledge to design research with the aid of social theory. Recognise which social theory is need for what topic and recall its main aspects.
- Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.
- Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and concise communication.

## final Essay

Due: **2/6/2015**

Weighting: **40%**

Based on the presentation and discussion of your essay topic / abstract in week 6 and the feedback on your first draft, we ask you to write a final essay of 3000 words. You are supposed to use course material and readings. It is due in week 13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Remember means to retrieve relevant knowledge to design research with the aid of social theory. Recognise which social theory is need for what topic and recall its main aspects.
- Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to

each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.

- Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and concise communication.

## Delivery and Resources

All resources are available online through iLearn.

## Unit Schedule

1	24/2/2015	Introduction to SOCI703
2	3/3/2015	Developing a Sociological Tool Box for Research
3	10/3/2015	Sociology - The questions asked by Comte
4	17/3/2015	Weber, Marx and Durkheim
5	24/3/2015	The Social Construction of Reality
6	31/3/2015	Topic & abstract presentation 15%
	7/4/2015	mid-session break
	14/4/2015	mid-session break
7	21/4/2015	Individual and Society
8	28/4/2015	Societies as Social Systems
9	5/5/2015	Critical Theory
10	12/5/2015	Self, Society and Recognition
		draft essay due 30%
11	19/5/2015	Economy, Work and Society
12	26/5/2015	What is sociological critique?
13	2/6/2015	Conclusion
		Final Essay due 40%

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy

applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.
- Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and concise communication.

#### Assessment task

- final Essay

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- Remember means to retrieve relevant knowledge to design research with the aid of social theory. Recognise which social theory is need for what topic and recall its main aspects.
- Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.
- Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and concise communication.

#### Assessment tasks

- participation
- present essay topic / abstract

- draft essay
- final Essay

## PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Remember means to retrieve relevant knowledge to design research with the aid of social theory. Recognise which social theory is need for what topic and recall its main aspects.
- Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.
- Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and concise communication.

### Assessment tasks

- participation
- present essay topic / abstract
- draft essay
- final Essay

## PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Remember means to retrieve relevant knowledge to design research with the aid of social theory. Recognise which social theory is need for what topic and recall its main aspects.
- Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to



each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.

- Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and concise communication.

## **Assessment tasks**

- participation
- present essay topic / abstract
- draft essay
- final Essay

## **PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Remember means to retrieve relevant knowledge to design research with the aid of social theory. Recognise which social theory is need for what topic and recall its main aspects.
- Analyse means to break a research topic into parts and determine how they relate to each other and to the overall structure or purpose. Differentiate the appropriate or available theoretical approaches and learn how to organise an argument around them.
- Engage students in learning activities and assessments that encourage clear and concise communication.

## **Assessment tasks**

- participation
- present essay topic / abstract
- draft essay
- final Essay

## **PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens**

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to

national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Assessment task**

- final Essay