SOCI703

Social Theory

S1 Day 2017

Dept of Sociology

Contents

Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Norbert Ebert norbert.ebert@mq.edu.au
Credit points 4
Prerequisites Admission to MRes
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit provides an advanced introduction to core social theories and is open to students from all disciplines. The focus is on the relationship between social theory and empirical research as an essential and meaningful skill for postgraduate research in various disciplines. The candidate will acquire an advanced understanding of social theory and an awareness of how theory is informed by but also informs empirical research. The design of the unit takes into account students' own research plans and designs and provides them with the competence to apply both theoretical and empirical research skills.

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:

> The unit provides a fundamental understanding of various theoretical approaches in social theory. The link between social theory and its application plays a central role in this. The aim is to develop skills to not only research and identify particular social theories, but to use them to interpret and analyze everyday life.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation	20%	No	ongoing

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
research	40%	No	weekly
Review essay	40%	No	week 13 09/06/2017

Participation

Due: **ongoing**
Weighting: **20%**

Participating in class discussion is essential. This means not only to be there in person, but to come prepared (readings) and participate in dicussions. Your consistent and continues input is required.

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research

Due: **weekly**
Weighting: **40%**

This assignment has two components:

1) Every student needs to be prepared to lead the **discussion** every week on the basis of a summary of the set weekly reading. At the beginning of the class we will chose one person as the presenter for this week (over duration of the course everyone will need to present twice) The summary needs to

- identify the main area of research / school / approach / topic / theme (keywords)
- explain the main argument in your own words
- identify another major reading in the set reading and introduce it briefly on the basis of a book review or similar (email to convenor together with handout before class)
- raise discussion points
- relate to contemporary example(s)

2) A **handout** (no longer than 2 pagers) needs to be prepared by every student and emailed to the convenor before class. After class the presenter of the week adds a summary / refines the handout on the basis of the class discussion and sends it to the convenor who posts it on iLearn for everyone.

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Review essay

Due: **week 13 09/06/2017**
Weighting: **40%**

The final assignment is a review essay. Your first task is to identify a book in consultation with the unit convenor that is central to your research interests (does not need to be a purely theoretical book). You then review/assess this book on the basis of the weekly material from the course.

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Delivery and Resources

All course material will be made available through iLearn and the university library.

Unit Schedule

Week	Date
Week 1	01/03/2017
Week 2	08/03/2017
Week 3	15/03/2017
Week 4	22/03/2017
Week 5	29/03/2017
Week 6	05/04/2017
Week 7	12/04/2017

mid-session break	19/04/2017
mid-session break	26/04/2017
Week 8	03/05/2017
Week 9	10/05/2017
Week 10	17/05/2017
Week 11	24/05/2017
Week 12	31/05/2017
Week 13	07/06/2017
final assignment due	09/06/2017

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

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration

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/

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.

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) 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

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

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 outcome

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theories, but to use them to interpret and analyze everyday life.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- research
- Review 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.

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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:

Assessment tasks

- research
- Review 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.

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