



SOCI298

Sociology of Asian Societies

S1 Day 2017

Dept of Sociology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp at 100 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Australia is geographically, politically and economically enmeshed with the rapid changes taking place in the Asian region and our fate is tied up in profound ways with the so-called 'Asian Century'. Drawing on case studies from Japan, China, Singapore, India, Malaysia and Indonesia, this unit will explore, through a sociological framework, key social transformations in modern Asian societies. Through the lens of these nation-states, the unit will take a thematic approach to consider societal transformations across contemporary Asia and will explore what a distinctively sociological treatment offers: 1) Asian diversities and migrations; 2) The Intimate sphere, gender and changing family formations; 3) Asian economies and the growing middle class; 4) Comparative Welfare and social policies; 5) Urbanisation and Asian cities; and 6) Asian global cultural flows; and 7) Globalisation and interconnectedness in the Asian century.

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:

Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.

Explain the core societal transformations taking place in Asia and understand how these relate to processes of globalisation.

Interpret key sociological concepts as they are applied to the study of Asian societies.

Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological

concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Critical Review Essay</u>	20%	No	week 5
<u>Asia Watch - Weekly Report</u>	25%	No	weekly
<u>Examination</u>	35%	No	Week 13
<u>Seminar Participation</u>	20%	No	ongoing

Critical Review Essay

Due: **week 5**

Weighting: **20%**

Write a 2 page critical review essay answering this question:

Why study Asia and what are the strengths of a sociological approach to explaining social issues in Asia?

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.
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- Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Asia Watch - Weekly Report

Due: **weekly**

Weighting: **25%**

Weekly presentation and report on Asian social issues covered in Australian/Asian newspapers.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Interpret key sociological concepts as they are applied to the study of Asian societies.
- Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Examination

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **35%**

In-class open book examination based on lecture content and course readings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.
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- Interpret key sociological concepts as they are applied to the study of Asian societies.
- Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Seminar Participation

Due: **ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Seminar attendance is compulsory and therefore no marks will be awarded for attendance. Students are required to actively participate and contribute to weekly seminar discussions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.
- Explain the core societal transformations taking place in Asia and understand how these relate to processes of globalisation.
- Interpret key sociological concepts as they are applied to the study of Asian societies.
- Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Delivery and Resources

All lectures are available on ECHO360 via ilearn page.

Required readings are available through the library.

Seminar attendance is compulsory and no marks will be awarded for attendance.

You must submit all assignments to complete the unit.

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

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment task

- Asia Watch - Weekly Report

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Assessment tasks

- Asia Watch - Weekly Report
- Examination

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they

participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.
- Explain the core societal transformations taking place in Asia and understand how these relate to processes of globalisation.
- Interpret key sociological concepts as they are applied to the study of Asian societies.
- Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Assessment tasks

- Critical Review Essay
- Asia Watch - Weekly Report
- Examination
- Seminar Participation

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.
- Explain the core societal transformations taking place in Asia and understand how these relate to processes of globalisation.
- Interpret key sociological concepts as they are applied to the study of Asian societies.
- Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Assessment tasks

- Critical Review Essay

- Asia Watch - Weekly Report
- Examination
- Seminar Participation

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.
- Explain the core societal transformations taking place in Asia and understand how these relate to processes of globalisation.
- Interpret key sociological concepts as they are applied to the study of Asian societies.
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Assessment tasks

- Critical Review Essay
- Asia Watch - Weekly Report
- Examination
- Seminar Participation

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Explain the core societal transformations taking place in Asia and understand how these relate to processes of globalisation.
- Interpret key sociological concepts as they are applied to the study of Asian societies.
- Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological

concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Assessment tasks

- Asia Watch - Weekly Report
- Seminar Participation

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.
- Explain the core societal transformations taking place in Asia and understand how these relate to processes of globalisation.
- Interpret key sociological concepts as they are applied to the study of Asian societies.
- Investigate non-Western social theorists and consider how key western sociological concepts may or may not apply in an Asian context.

Assessment tasks

- Critical Review Essay
- Asia Watch - Weekly Report
- Examination
- Seminar Participation

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.
- Explain the core societal transformations taking place in Asia and understand how these

relate to processes of globalisation.

Assessment tasks

- Critical Review Essay
- Examination
- Seminar Participation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Examine the Asian region and Asian societies.
- Explain the core societal transformations taking place in Asia and understand how these relate to processes of globalisation.

Assessment tasks

- Critical Review Essay
- Examination
- Seminar Participation