SOCX175
Australian Society
S1 OUA 2017
Dept of Sociology

Contents

General Information 2
Learning Outcomes 2
Assessment Tasks 3
Delivery and Resources 5
Policies and Procedures 6
Graduate Capabilities 8

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
Amanda Wise

Tutor
Breanna Jones
breanna.jones@mq.edu.au

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Commence your studies of society by learning about the sociological framework and establish skills for life. You will be introduced to many of the ways in which sociologists think about the most intimate aspects of life - such as sexuality, the family and gender - as well as to larger and often impersonal structural features, such as social class, the labour market and social policy. You will also have the opportunity to use social research techniques such as interviews and observation in the real world, as well as to uncover the secrets often hidden in other sources of information and data. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/

Learning Outcomes

1. Be familiar with key sociological concepts
2. Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
3. Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
4. Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
5. Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
6. Have developed a rich understanding of social life
7. Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Sunday of Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Sunday of Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 3</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Friday of Week 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Online Participation**

Due: **Ongoing**  
Weighting: **20%**

Each week you will be asked to investigate a variety of readings accompanied by commentaries or sets of questions to guide you through the readings. These weekly questions are designed to guide you through the ideas and concepts that we will be exploring in the course. You will be asked to investigate these key questions, and post your findings to the discussion forums.

Active engagement in discussions is an important part of university learning. Ensure you have read at least the required readings prior to discussions. Your tutor will give you additional instructions on how to participate in the discussion forums. Note that quality participation in less than 80% of weekly discussions will incur a ‘fail’ for the course unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Be familiar with key sociological concepts
- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
- Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
- Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
- Have developed a rich understanding of social life

**Essay 1**

Due: **Sunday of Week 4**  
Weighting: **20%**
Write a brief essay on ONE topic covered in either week 2, 3 or 4. Engage with the (1) lecture, (2) ONE set weekly reading/s and (3) ONE additional reading that you have found.

**Minimum references:** 3 (lecture, set reading/s, additional material such as a sociology journal article or book chapter).

**Word count:** 500

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Be familiar with key sociological concepts
- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
- Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
- Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
- Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
- Have developed a rich understanding of social life
- Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

**Essay 2**

**Due:** **Sunday of Week 8**

**Weighting:** **25%**

Write a brief essay on ONE topic covered in either week 5, 6, 7 or 8. Engage with the (1) lecture, (2) ONE set weekly reading/s and (3) TWO additional readings that you have found.

**Minimum references:** 4 (lecture, set reading/s, additional material such as a sociology journal article or book chapter).

**Word count:** 700

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Be familiar with key sociological concepts
- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
- Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
- Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
• Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
• Have developed a rich understanding of social life
• Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

Essay 3
Due: Friday of Week 12
Weighting: 35%

Write a brief essay on ONE topic covered in either week 9, 10, 11 or 12. Engage with the (1) lecture, (2) ONE set weekly reading/s and (3) THREE additional readings that you have found.

Minimum references: 5 (lecture, set reading/s, additional material such as a sociology journal article or book chapter).

Word count: 1000

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Be familiar with key sociological concepts
• Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
• Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
• Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
• Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
• Have developed a rich understanding of social life
• Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

Delivery and Resources
Recorded or written lectures are supplemented by weekly readings.
Policies and Procedures

Late Submission

Unless otherwise stated, late submission of written work will result in a deduction of 10% of the mark awarded for each week or part of a week beyond the due date, or date to which an extension has been granted.

Extension Request


The University recognises that students may experience disruptions that adversely affect their academic performance in assessment activities.

The disruption to studies policy (http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) applies only to serious and unavoidable disruptions that arise after a study period has commenced.

Serious and unavoidable disruption

The University classifies a disruption as serious and unavoidable if it:

- could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and
- was beyond the student's control; and
- caused substantial disruption to the student's capacity for effective study and/or completion of required work; and
- occurred during an event critical study period and was at least three (3) consecutive days duration, and/or
- prevented completion of a final examination.

If you feel that you've been impacted by a serious and unavoidable disruption to study situation, submit an application as follows:

1. Visit Ask MQ (https://ask.mq.edu.au) and use your OneID to log in via 'Current student domestic and international'
2. Under 'Forms' select 'disruptions' and fill in your relevant details.
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'submit form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

Review

Once your submission is assessed, recommendations are sent to your unit convenor to ensure an appropriate solution for affected assessment(s) is organised.

OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

**OUA Special Circumstances Process**

Special Circumstances refers to late withdrawal from a unit and your request to have your circumstances taken into account for a possible refund of fees and removal of a "fail" result.

*Applications for Special Circumstances are to be submitted to Open Universities Australia directly:*


Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/) 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/](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 Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

Equity 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.

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

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**

- Be familiar with key sociological concepts
- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
• Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
• Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
• Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
• Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

Assessment tasks
• Online Participation
• Essay 1
• Essay 2
• Essay 3

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:

Learning outcomes
• Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
• Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
• Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

Assessment tasks
• Essay 1
• Essay 2
• Essay 3
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**

- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
- Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
- Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
- Have developed a rich understanding of social life
- Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

**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**

- Be familiar with key sociological concepts
- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
- Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
- Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
- Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
- Have developed a rich understanding of social life
• Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

Assessment tasks

• Online Participation
• Essay 1
• Essay 2
• Essay 3

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

• Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
• Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
• Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
• Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
• Have developed a rich understanding of social life
• Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

Assessment tasks

• Online Participation
• Essay 1
• Essay 2
• Essay 3
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**

- Be familiar with key sociological concepts
- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
- Develop an understanding of how the sociological imagination can be used in thinking about social issues and trends
- Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
- Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

**Assessment tasks**

- Online Participation
- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Essay 3

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**

- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
- Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
• Have developed a rich understanding of social life
• Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

**Assessment task**

• Online Participation

**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 outcomes**

• Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
• Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
• Have developed a rich understanding of social life
• Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

**Assessment tasks**

• Essay 1
• Essay 2
• Essay 3

**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

• Develop a basic understanding of social research techniques, especially qualitative methods
• Be able to read, summarise and apply basic works of sociology to the study of contemporary life
• Have developed a rich understanding of social life
• Have developed a range of generic skills useful in tertiary education and vocational settings (reading and listening; critique; relational thinking; data collection and analysis; sociological observation; theoretical awareness; written and verbal expression)

Assessment tasks

• Online Participation
• Essay 1
• Essay 2
• Essay 3