



# SOCX175

## Australian Society

S2 OUA 2017

*Dept of Sociology*

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### Disclaimer

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Amanda Wise

Tutor

Breanna Jones

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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](http://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

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

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

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Online Participation</u>	20%	No	Ongoing
<u>Essay 1</u>	20%	No	Sunday of Week 4
<u>Essay 2</u>	25%	No	Sunday of Week 8
<u>Essay 3</u>	35%	No	Friday of Week 12

### 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 participation component.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 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

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Be familiar with key sociological concepts
- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
- Develop an understanding fo 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

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Be familiar with key sociological concepts
- Have developed an understanding of theoretical perspectives on social life
- Develop an understanding fo 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

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 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 - applies unless otherwise stated

## elsewhere in the unit guide

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

## Extension Request

**Special Consideration Policy and Procedure**  
(<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>)

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable
2. were beyond your control
3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work
4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements
5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

If you feel that your studies have been impacted submit an application as follows:

1. Visit [Ask MQ](#) and use your OneID to log in
2. 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

## Outcome

Once your submission is assessed, an appropriate outcome will be organised.

## OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

### Withdrawal from a unit after the census date

You can withdraw from your subjects prior to [the census date](#) (last day to withdraw). If you successfully withdraw before the census date, you won't need to apply for Special Circumstances. If you find yourself unable to withdraw from your subjects before the census date - you might be able to [apply for Special Circumstances](#). If you're eligible, we can refund your fees and overturn your fail grade.

If you're studying Single Subjects using FEE-HELP or paying up front, you can [apply online](#).

If you're studying a degree using HECS-HELP, you'll need to [apply directly to Macquarie University](#).

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\\_2016.html](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](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](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/](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://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

### 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

## **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

## **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

## 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

## 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 fo 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 fo 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

## **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)