



SOCI2010

Theories of Modernity

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Sociology

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Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Harry Blatterer

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Modernity ushered in major social and political changes. In this unit, we will be examining how major social thinkers attempted to understand and explain the changes, ruptures and crises they saw unfold. Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel – key figures in the development of Sociology – but also later theorists developed distinctive perspectives and conceptual apparatuses in their diagnoses of modernity and the experience of uncertainty that characterises modern life. Their work remains a vital source of illumination into tendencies and potentials of the contemporary world. But there are also tensions with the present, which we will explore in order to better understand the contexts of our own ‘modern’ lives. 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.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

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

ULO1: identify the distinguishing figures, topics and texts of Social Theory and Sociology as a field of study and investigate its points of connection and disconnection in contemporary society

ULO2: explain the origin, characteristics and complexity of modern societies.

ULO3: articulate a coherent, developed account of what it means to live in modern societies.

ULO4: analyse and critically assess a variety of primary texts within their historical, social and discursive contexts.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Seminar Participation	20%	No	Ongoing
Essay 1	40%	No	Week 7
Essay 2	40%	No	Week 13

Seminar Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Active engagement with original theoretical texts by way of close reading and peer discussion.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the distinguishing figures, topics and texts of Social Theory and Sociology as a field of study and investigate its points of connection and disconnection in contemporary society
- explain the origin, characteristics and complexity of modern societies.
- articulate a coherent, developed account of what it means to live in modern societies.
- analyse and critically assess a variety of primary texts within their historical, social and discursive contexts.

Essay 1

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **40%**

This research essay aims to give students the opportunity to show their comprehension of the material covered in the unit by way of a standard essay (Introduction, body, conclusion).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the distinguishing figures, topics and texts of Social Theory and Sociology as a field of study and investigate its points of connection and disconnection in contemporary

society

- explain the origin, characteristics and complexity of modern societies.
- articulate a coherent, developed account of what it means to live in modern societies.
- analyse and critically assess a variety of primary texts within their historical, social and discursive contexts.

Essay 2

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

This research essay aims to give students the opportunity to show their comprehension of the material covered in the unit by way of a standard essay (Introduction, body, conclusion).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the distinguishing figures, topics and texts of Social Theory and Sociology as a field of study and investigate its points of connection and disconnection in contemporary society
- explain the origin, characteristics and complexity of modern societies.
- articulate a coherent, developed account of what it means to live in modern societies.
- analyse and critically assess a variety of primary texts within their historical, social and discursive contexts.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

This unit has a presence on **iLearn** (ilearn.mq.edu.au) and you will be required to have regular access to a reliable broadband internet connection and a computer.

Please refer to the iLearn page regularly.

There are **weekly readings** and **discussion questions** listed on iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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.