



SOCX3090

Understanding Contemporary Societies

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Sociology

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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

130cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Change, some people say, is the only constant in life. How can we make sense of it? This unit provides essential skills and knowledge that enable you to understand contemporary societies and the lives we live in them. The goal is to explore diverse areas such as work, identity, relationships, politics, diversity and the private sphere. The unit has a strong focus on practical applications and prepares students to deal with and make sense of major social developments, which shape our lives and the world we live in.

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: demonstrate an understanding of a range of sociological perspectives on social life from the 19th century to the present.

ULO2: apply key sociological concepts to the study of contemporary societies.

ULO3: analyse a contemporary social issue using sociological theories

ULO4: effectively communicate complex ideas in written form.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Active participation	20%	No	Ongoing
Research essay	40%	No	Week 7
Final essay	40%	No	Week 13

Active participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

On the basis of the provided course contents students are expected to actively engage in class discussions with each other including group work.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of a range of sociological perspectives on social life from the 19th century to the present.
- apply key sociological concepts to the study of contemporary societies.
- analyse a contemporary social issue using sociological theories
- effectively communicate complex ideas in written form.

Research essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **40%**

The aim of this assessment task is threefold: (1) to gauge your comprehension of the perspectives and concepts covered thus far; (2) to get you to think about connecting theoretical material to contemporary social issues; (3) to prepare you for your final assessment task.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of a range of sociological perspectives on social life from the 19th century to the present.
- apply key sociological concepts to the study of contemporary societies.
- analyse a contemporary social issue using sociological theories

- effectively communicate complex ideas in written form.

Final essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 13 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

The aim of this assessment task is for you to show your ability to apply the perspectives and concepts we have discussed to a "real-life" issue.

- a) pick a sociological concept or approach from one of the weeks and define it clearly.
- b) pick and briefly describe a social issue you would like to interpret and analyse.
- c) interpret and analyse (b) with (a)

Your example can be sourced from a novel, an article, a video clip, film, etc. The most important point is relevance and a clear connection between the example and the sociological perspective you have chosen.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of a range of sociological perspectives on social life from the 19th century to the present.
- apply key sociological concepts to the study of contemporary societies.
- analyse a contemporary social issue using sociological theories
- effectively communicate complex ideas in written form.

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.