



SOCI2050

Work, Self and Society

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Department of Sociology

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>General Information</u> | 2 |
| <u>Learning Outcomes</u> | 2 |
| <u>Assessment Tasks</u> | 3 |
| <u>Delivery and Resources</u> | 5 |
| <u>Unit Schedule</u> | 5 |
| <u>Policies and Procedures</u> | 6 |

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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

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Work is core to our sense of self and identity. It provides us with status, self-esteem and recognition. As individuals, however, we are not always in control of the way work is organised. The growing gap between the rich and the poor, rising job insecurity and the emergence of the digital economy all affect how we work. This unit unpacks the relationship between work, self and society. First, we examine the role work played in pre-industrial societies. Second, we investigate the impacts on the self and society of large-scale changes occurring in industrial and post-industrial societies such as automation, and the increasing demand for workplace diversity and inclusion. Finally, we contemplate what a fairer, more equal organisation of work in the future looks like by considering ideas such as a shorter working week, gender quotas or a universal basic income. This unit suits students from all disciplines.

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 characteristics of work and employment and their consequences for individual, organisational and social wellbeing.

ULO2: recognise the main social and economic processes and logics defining the world

of work and how they influence other major parts of life.

ULO3: distinguish the main drivers and mechanisms that shape the culture of workplaces and work societies.

ULO4: recognise the meaning of work and employment in an increasingly globalised world where local work processes are shaped by global dynamics.

ULO5: express specific social and economic ideas in writing and verbally.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------------|
| Short Written Answers | 20% | No | Sunday week 4 |
| Quiz | 20% | No | Weekly from week 2 to 11 |
| Participation | 20% | No | Weekly |
| Written Task | 40% | No | Tuesday week 14 |

Short Written Answers

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Sunday week 4**

Weighting: **20%**

All students have to answer questions that cover contents from the course.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the characteristics of work and employment and their consequences for individual, organisational and social wellbeing.
- recognise the main social and economic processes and logics defining the world of work and how they influence other major parts of life.

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Weekly from week 2 to 11**

Weighting: **20%**

On the basis of the provided course contents student undertake a weekly quiz to cover basic knowledge from the course.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the characteristics of work and employment and their consequences for individual, organisational and social wellbeing.
- recognise the main social and economic processes and logics defining the world of work and how they influence other major parts of life.

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 13 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

On the basis of the provided specific course contents including readings and employment data, students are expected to actively engage in discussions and answer specific questions as per advised.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the characteristics of work and employment and their consequences for individual, organisational and social wellbeing.
- recognise the main social and economic processes and logics defining the world of work and how they influence other major parts of life.
- distinguish the main drivers and mechanisms that shape the culture of workplaces and work societies.
- recognise the meaning of work and employment in an increasingly globalised world where local work processes are shaped by global dynamics.
- express specific social and economic ideas in writing and verbally.

Written Task

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Tuesday week 14**

Weighting: **40%**

Based on the course contents student write an in-depth reflection and analysis on topics in the area of work and employment based on readings, lectures, own work experience or specifically provided data. The expectation is to apply the specific knowledge gained in the course to concrete scenarios.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify the characteristics of work and employment and their consequences for individual, organisational and social wellbeing.
- recognise the main social and economic processes and logics defining the world of work and how they influence other major parts of life.
- distinguish the main drivers and mechanisms that shape the culture of workplaces and work societies.
- recognise the meaning of work and employment in an increasingly globalised world where local work processes are shaped by global dynamics.
- express specific social and economic ideas in writing and verbally.

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

There is no text book for this unit.

All readings are available through Leganto.

Unit Schedule

| Week | Lecture | Tutorial topics | Assignments |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Week 1, starts Monday 27 July | Work in 2020 – introductions | • | |
| 2 | Work Society | Engaging with key concepts | Weekly quizzes start Tutorial participation starts |

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 3 | Capitalism | What people do in Australia, job stats | |
| 4 | Work hard! | Stress and coping | First written assignment due |
| 5 | Surviving work | Informal resistance | |
| 6 | Work is political | Creating jobs in a recession | |
| 7 | Precarity and Un(der)employment | Australia, ABS stats | |
| 8 | Automation and the end of work | Whose jobs are at risk? OECD data | |
| 9 | The Gig economy | Uber, Uber eats and Airbnb | |
| 10 | Class and work | Observation task: who does what? | |
| 11 | Gendered work | Australia, how far have we come? | Last weekly quiz |
| 12 | Unpaid work | Time recording: own unpaid work | Last week of tutorial participation |
| 13 | The future of work | . | |
| | | | Final assignment due |

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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/policies)

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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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.