



SOCI7000

Critical Social Theory

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2021

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face 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

Norbert Ebert

norbert.ebert@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides an advanced introduction to core social theories and is open to students from all disciplines. The focus is on the relationship between social theory and empirical research as an essential and meaningful skill for postgraduate research in various disciplines. The candidate will acquire an advanced understanding of social theory and an awareness of how theory is informed by but also informs empirical research. The design of the unit takes into account students' own research plans and designs and provides them with the competence to apply both theoretical and empirical research skills.

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 various social theoretical approaches

ULO2: define and describe core theoretical concepts in the social sciences

ULO3: analyse and understand empirical examples with the aid of social theory

ULO4: develop a basic theoretical framework

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| Active participation | 20% | No | weekly |
| Presentation | 20% | No | weekly |
| Research Essay | 60% | No | week 12 |

Active participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will actively participate and facilitate class discussion.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify various social theoretical approaches
- define and describe core theoretical concepts in the social sciences

Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will present, share and discuss knowledge on a specific theoretical approach, concept or idea.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify various social theoretical approaches
- define and describe core theoretical concepts in the social sciences

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **week 12**

Weighting: **60%**

Building on the course material, student will develop a focused and detailed theoretical approach to a specific topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify various social theoretical approaches
- define and describe core theoretical concepts in the social sciences
- analyse and understand empirical examples with the aid of social theory
- develop a basic theoretical framework

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

All resources for this unit will be available through iLearn or the library.

Unit Schedule

| SOCI7000 CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY | | |
|---|------------|---|
| Week | Date | Topic |
| 1 | 23/02/2021 | Introduction & Welcome |
| | | |
| FOUNDATIONS | | |
| 2 | 02/03/2021 | Foundational Ideas & Concepts in Social Theory |
| 3 | 09/03/2021 | Reoccurring Patterns & Puzzles in Social Theory |
| | | |
| CLASSICAL APPROACHES (AND SHORTCOMINGS) | | |
| 4 | 16/03/2021 | Economic Determinism |
| 5 | 23/03/2021 | Interpretive Sociology |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 6 | 30/03/2021 | Social Determinism |
| | 06/04/2021 | Mid-session break |
| | 13/04/2021 | Mid-session break |
| 7 | 20/04/2021 | Symbolic interactionism |
| 8 | 27/04/2021 | Social Processes and Networks |
| 9 | 04/05/2021 | Self & Identity |
| TOWARDS CONTEMPORARY ISSUES | | |
| 10 | 11/05/2021 | Intersectionality |
| 11 | 18/05/2021 | The Power of Norms |
| 12 | 25/05/2021 | Post-structuralism |
| 13 | 01/06/2021 | Conclusion: Critical Theory |

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.s.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.s.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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.