



SSCI1000

Introducing Social Science

Session 1, Online-flexible 2024

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Major issues facing Australia and the world today - including poverty, food security, climate change, inequality, the platform economy, digital surveillance, cyber crime, automation, refugee resettlement, global health and more - invariably have a social dimension. How can we respond to these complex and important issues without understanding them? This unit searches for insights into contemporary issues by surveying the social sciences. This unit has three parts. The first part introduces social science as a field of inquiry, tracing pivotal historical developments and asking what it means to think socially. The second part explores a series of contemporary issues, highlighting the distinct contributions that the social sciences offer our understanding of recent transformations. And, by reflecting on our explorations of contemporary issues, the third part concludes the unit by drawing out the close relationship between theory, methods and analysis for social science practice today. From the three parts of this unit, you will gain an insight into social scientific inquiry and contemporary issues facing our society.

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 foundational knowledge of the relationship between theory and methodology in social scientific inquiry
- ULO2:** evaluate the contributions that social science makes to practical knowledge of the world around us
- ULO3:** discuss the insights that social science theories and methodologies provide to understanding a major social issue
- ULO4:** communicate understanding of social science theories and methods by effectively using academic and professional writing formats.

General Assessment Information

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is an integral part of the core values and principles contained in the Macquarie University Ethics Statement. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- All academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- All academic collaborations are acknowledged

- Academic work is not falsified in any way
- When the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately
- Self-plagiarism (resubmitting your own work - including past assignments for this or other units - without attribution) is an unacceptable academic activity

University Grading Policy

The grade that a student receives will signify their overall performance in meeting the learning outcomes of the unit of study. Graded units will use the following grades

HD	High Distinction	85-100
D	Distinction	75-84
Cr	Credit	65-74
P	Pass	50-64
F	Fail	0-49

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.

Return of Marked Work

As per university policy, written assessments will be returned to students within three weeks of the submission date. Early assignments will not be marked early.

Special Consideration (Extensions)

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.

More information about Special Consideration is available in the Policies and Procedures section of the unit guide.

Late Penalties

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-time sensitive assessment (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic

Student Wellbeing

Macquarie University offers a range of wellbeing services (including [but not limited to]: health, welfare, counselling, disability and student advocacy services) that are available to you at any time during your studies. Campus Wellbeing is here to support you and help you succeed, both academically and personally. More information is available in the Policies and Procedures section of the unit guide.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Annotated Bibliography	30%	No	08/04/2024
Literature review	50%	No	30/05/2024
Active Participation	20%	No	30/05/2024

Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type ¹: Annotated bibliography

Indicative Time on Task ²: 21 hours

Due: **08/04/2024**

Weighting: **30%**

750 word written task

On successful completion you will be able to:

- discuss the insights that social science theories and methodologies provide to understanding a major social issue
- communicate understanding of social science theories and methods by effectively using academic and professional writing formats.

Literature review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 42 hours

Due: **30/05/2024**

Weighting: **50%**

1,500 word written task

On successful completion you will be able to:

- discuss the insights that social science theories and methodologies provide to understanding a major social issue
- communicate understanding of social science theories and methods by effectively using academic and professional writing formats.

Active Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 13 hours

Due: **30/05/2024**

Weighting: **20%**

Participation in unit activities

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate foundational knowledge of the relationship between theory and methodology in social scientific inquiry
- evaluate the contributions that social science makes to practical knowledge of the world around us

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

Unit Sessions

Lectures will be recorded and become available online via iLearn.

Tutorials will run between weeks 1 and 12 of semester (inclusive) and be 55 minutes in duration. Please attend the tutorial class that you are enrolled in e-student.

Required and recommended resources

The required textbook for SSCI1000 is *The Quick Fix Guide to Academic Writing: How to Avoid Big Mistakes and Small Errors* by Phillip C. Shon.

Other required readings are online available via Leganto (see below).

Technology used

The following technologies are used in this unit...

Email

Make sure that you regularly check your student email for correspondence with teaching staff and course announcements.

iLearn

Important information about the weekly schedule, course readings and assessment are all available on the course *iLearn* page. If you do not have access, please contact IT help. You are required to check iLearn and your student email regularly for course updates and information.

Turnitin

All written assessments need to be submitted online via Turnitin only. A link to Turnitin is available via the Assessments tab on the iLearn page. Please contact the convenor if you cannot find it (do not leave it until the day of the assessment). There is no need to submit a hard copy of the assessment or to include a cover sheet.

Grademark

Feedback will be made available online via GradeMark. It will take four forms (in no particular order): specific comments in the text of your paper; overall comments; a score on a qualitative

rubric (that cannot be used to calculate your mark numerically); and a numeric score. Once you have received your assignment back, please make sure that you have access to these forms of feedback.

Leganto

Leganto is the electronic system for accessing unit readings that can be accessed via the iLearn page. Readings are allocated via topic. As well as the required readings for each topic, you will find recommended and optional readings. The required readings are available in pdf or electronic format. If you are not able to access the readings, please contact the unit convenor via email.

Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule

The following table identifies the weekly topics for SSCI1000. Lectures and tutorials will be held from weeks 1 to 12 (inclusive). In weeks 1 and 2, we introduce the social sciences as a field of inquiry. From weeks 3 to 11, each lecture have two parts. The first half of each lecture introduces key terms and concepts of social inquiry, then the second half explains how these terms and concepts are applied in exemplary social science studies on contemporary social issues. In week 12, we conclude the lectures by presenting an overview of what we have covered and discuss implications for social science. Finally, in week 13, careers information and self-help resources have been made available for your perusal. More information can be found about the weekly topics and required readings on the unit iLearn page.

Week	Topic
1	Introducing social science/Introducing SSCI1000 (Greg Downey & Sara Fuller)
2	Potted History of Social Science (Peter Rogers)
3	Social Issues & Public Policy/Climate change & activism (Sara Fuller)
4	Disciplines & Interdisciplinary social science/Cities (Sara Fuller)
5	Introducing Research Paradigms/Health, Science & Gender (Greg Downey & Lisa Wynn)
6	Theory as Explanation/The Cultures of Class (Nicholas Harrigan)
7	Between Concepts & Measures/Social Determinants of Life and Death Under Covid (Nicholas Harrigan)
	[Two weeks mid-semester break]
8	Developing Research Questions & Hypotheses/Postcolonialism (Noah Bassil)
9	Qualitative Inquiry/Ethnographies of drug use (Lisa Wynn)
10	Quantitative Inquiry/Indigenous Overincarceration (Nicholas Harrigan)
11	Social Science Practice: Linking Theory, Data, & Analysis/Sport and coaching (Greg Downey)
12	Careers in Social Science (Greg Downey)

Week	Topic
13	[No lecture in Week 13]

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Unit information based on version 2024.01 of the [Handbook](#)