



SSCI2001

Problems, Solutions and Uncertainty

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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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

Social scientists understand that both problems and solutions are unstable objects relating to power, perspective, authority, location, and values. Students will practise the skills required to define problems, conduct critique, and embrace critical and reflexive approaches to qualitative and quantitative information. The unit will consider the influence of perspective and standpoint when analysing, interpreting, designing, presenting, implementing, and critiquing social issues. Using qualitative and quantitative approaches to data analysis, students will explore techniques for drawing associations and analysing facts, ideas, and situations. Students will also learn techniques of presentation and improvisation, as they practise communicating a policy response, change proposal or through community advocacy. Opportunities are provided to respond to feedback on their findings and leverage the results into different narratives. Students will gain comfort with bias, ambiguity, and uncertainty in approaches to social issues. As a result, they will be more discerning users and makers of social research and more flexible as social science practitioners.

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: Understand and explore the effect of power and perspective in defining problems,

asking questions and proposing solutions.

ULO2: Conduct reflexive and critical analysis relating to a question or issue of concern.

ULO3: Apply qualitative and quantitative techniques to analyse data and draw corresponding, evidence-based conclusions.

ULO4: Propose convincing and compelling arguments to advocate for a recommended course of action or change in policy.

General Assessment Information

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 non-timed written assessments (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc) is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams/quizzes, 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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Case study	30%	No	28 March 2025
Research report	40%	No	9 May 2025
Podcast	30%	No	3 June 2025

Case study

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **28 March 2025**

Weighting: **30%**

Case study of contemporary social issue. 1000 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and explore the effect of power and perspective in defining problems, asking questions and proposing solutions.

- Conduct reflexive and critical analysis relating to a question or issue of concern.

Research report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **9 May 2025**

Weighting: **40%**

Research report. 1500 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and explore the effect of power and perspective in defining problems, asking questions and proposing solutions.
- Conduct reflexive and critical analysis relating to a question or issue of concern.
- Apply qualitative and quantitative techniques to analyse data and draw corresponding, evidence-based conclusions.
- Propose convincing and compelling arguments to advocate for a recommended course of action or change in policy.

Podcast

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **3 June 2025**

Weighting: **30%**

Podcast in response to a change scenario

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Conduct reflexive and critical analysis relating to a question or issue of concern.
- Apply qualitative and quantitative techniques to analyse data and draw corresponding, evidence-based conclusions.

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

SSCI2001 lectorials will be recorded via ECHO. The lectorials are designed to provide the content delivery of weekly topics while incorporating interactive, discussion-based, and participatory activities to foster active learning.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#) (<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>). 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>) 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 connect.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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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 2025.03 of the [Handbook](#)