# SSCI1001

## Introduction to Social Sciences

Session 1, Online-flexible 2025

*School of Communication, Society and Culture*

# Contents

**Disclaimer**

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

# General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Lecturer and convenor
Norbert Ebert
norbert.ebert@mq.edu.au

Lecturer
Sara Fuller
sara.fuller@mq.edu.au

Lecturer
Adam Stebbing
adam.stebbing@mq.edu.au

Lecturer
Banu Senay
banu.senay@mq.edu.au

Lecturer
Jacqueline Mackaway
jacqueline.mackaway@mq.edu.au

Tutor
Jennifer Hockey
jennifer.hockey@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

How do people and systems interact in order to influence social change? Using distinctive toolkits and approaches, the social sciences help explain how different societies and the people within them operate, in terms of power, hierarchies, beliefs, identities, governance mechanisms, politics, environments, land use and resources. This unit introduces the key concepts, theories and methods of social sciences through a multi-disciplinary approach. Students will explore the emergence of social sciences and the key disciplines involved. Topics include changes and enduring questions over time related to people, environments, societies, power, agency, structures, and social change. The unit will present key theories and concepts used to understand 'the social' and how these apply in the world. The student will be introduced to the tools and techniques (the sciences) which social scientists use to create useable knowledge in robust and ethical ways. On completion of this unit, students will be prepared to further explore, practise and demonstrate mastery of the core concepts and applied tools of the social sciences.

## 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:** Trace and summarise the historical development of the key disciplines that have shaped the contemporary social sciences.
>
> **ULO2:** Identify the systems, structures and concerns which underpin social scientific explorations and analyses.
>
> **ULO3:** Define the role of the contemporary social scientist in navigating interdisciplinary and diverse perspectives on complex societal issues.
>
> **ULO4:** Demonstrate a foundational understanding of the role that key concepts, theories and methodologies play in the social sciences.
>
> **ULO5:** Describe how social science theories and related tools are used to ask questions, analyse problems and phenomena, and generate solutions for different social phenomena.

# 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 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.

# Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|------|-----------|--------|-----|
| Social change essay | 30% | No | 30/03/2025 |
| Social change project | 40% | No | 06/06/2025 |
| Skills log book | 30% | No | 30/05/2025 |

## Social change essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **30/03/2025**
Weighting: **30%**

Writing task about social change. 600 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Trace and summarise the historical development of the key disciplines that have shaped the contemporary social sciences.
- Define the role of the contemporary social scientist in navigating interdisciplinary and diverse perspectives on complex societal issues.
- Describe how social science theories and related tools are used to ask questions, analyse problems and phenomena, and generate solutions for different social phenomena.

## Social change project

Assessment Type [1]: Project
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **06/06/2025**
Weighting: **40%**

A project on the role of social sciences in understanding social change. 1500 words

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Trace and summarise the historical development of the key disciplines that have shaped the contemporary social sciences.
- Identify the systems, structures and concerns which underpin social scientific explorations and analyses.
- Define the role of the contemporary social scientist in navigating interdisciplinary and diverse perspectives on complex societal issues.
- Demonstrate a foundational understanding of the role that key concepts, theories and methodologies play in the social sciences.
- Describe how social science theories and related tools are used to ask questions, analyse problems and phenomena, and generate solutions for different social phenomena.

## Skills log book

Assessment Type [1]: Problem set
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **30/05/2025**
Weighting: **30%**

Collation of skills based activities.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Trace and summarise the historical development of the key disciplines that have shaped the contemporary social sciences.
- Identify the systems, structures and concerns which underpin social scientific explorations and analyses.

[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 unit contents will be provide via iLearn. The easiest way to ensure you are familiar with the unit and stay up to date with contents, skills and activites is to attend classes regularly and aks your teachers directly in class if you have any questions.

# 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/

### Academic Success

Academic Success 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