



SOCI2040

Economic Life, Inequality and Society

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	5

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Norbert Ebert norbert.ebert@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites 40cp at 1000 level or above
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description We engage in economic activities on a daily basis. We work to earn money, buy groceries, pay rent or mortgages, save for a holiday. In often invisible ways, these everyday activities of production and consumption are underpinned by social structures, cultures and ideologies. You will learn about the workings of the economy, labour markets and finance, and how economic activity is embedded in social relationships. You will be able to understand and address important issues of our time, such as the increasing gap between the rich and the poor, and unequal access to power and resources based on intersecting questions of gender, race and class.

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 an understanding of key concepts in economic sociology and political economy
- ULO2:** Identify important historical developments in the interplay of civil society, the economy and politics
- ULO3:** Communicate ideas through effective listening and speaking, constructive debates with peers and personal reflection.
- ULO4:** Write coherently, logically and succinctly, while following appropriate academic

and stylistic conventions.

ULO5: Recognise and contribute to sociological and economic arguments used in public and civic debates

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

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	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Participation	20%	No	weekly	Individual	No	Open
Quiz	30%	No	21/08/2026 and 30/10/ 2026	Individual	No	Open
Infographic	50%	No	04/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Participate in unit activities to learn to explain key concepts, analyse relevant issues and communicate insights to others.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of key concepts in economic sociology and political economy

- Identify important historical developments in the interplay of civil society, the economy and politics
- Communicate ideas through effective listening and speaking, constructive debates with peers and personal reflection.
- Recognise and contribute to sociological and economic arguments used in public and civic debates

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 42 hours

Due: **21/08/2026 and 30/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Based on readings from the course, students will have to complete a quiz.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of key concepts in economic sociology and political economy
- Identify important historical developments in the interplay of civil society, the economy and politics
- Communicate ideas through effective listening and speaking, constructive debates with peers and personal reflection.
- Write coherently, logically and succinctly, while following appropriate academic and stylistic conventions.
- Recognise and contribute to sociological and economic arguments used in public and civic debates

Infographic

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **04/10/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

One page infographic plus a one page topic statement, up to 500 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of key concepts in economic sociology and political economy
- Identify important historical developments in the interplay of civil society, the economy and politics
- Recognise and contribute to sociological and economic arguments used in public and civic debates

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

All unit material will be delivered via iLearn.

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](#)
- [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 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.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)