



SOCI2030

Introduction to Social Policy

Session 2, Online-flexible, North Ryde 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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By appointment

Lecturer

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Contact via via email

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Few areas in sociology generate as many questions and as much debate as the role of social policy and the welfare state. Can we afford generous social policies or is the 'age of entitlement' over? What role should governments, families, the community and individuals play in providing welfare? Does tighter scrutiny of welfare benefits improve efficiency and independence or is it intrusive and unfair? And, how is social policy developed in a world of competing interests and power? This unit addresses these questions as it introduces students to the history, design and institutions of social policy. We look particularly at current Australian social policy and consider how policymakers deal with problems such as an ageing population, precarious work and housing, the provision of care, and the targeting and financing of a welfare state. We also explore the role that power, ideas and institutions play in shaping policy debates. The unit is especially useful for students interested in policy practice and analysis, care and human services, social inequality, and political economy.

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 the conceptual problems in measuring and evaluating social and economic inequality

ULO2: Demonstrate an understanding of the different types of social and economic inequality and society's response to it.

ULO3: Apply basic concepts of social policy to a range of contemporary welfare debates, dilemmas and problems

ULO4: Assess and analyse the characteristics and potential future problems in relation to welfare states and their design of social policies.

ULO5: Demonstrate an understanding of key components and connections between work (labour market), families and social security systems.

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.

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. You can apply for Special Consideration via ask.mq.edu.au

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 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-timed 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. A Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.**

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Short answer 1	45%	No	18/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Short answer 2	45%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Participation	10%	No	Weekly	Individual	No	Open

Short answer 1

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **18/09/2026**

Weighting: **45%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

An assignment task consisting of 5 questions on topical questions in social policy and based on readings. 1250 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the conceptual problems in measuring and evaluating social and economic inequality
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different types of social and economic inequality and society's response to it.
- Apply basic concepts of social policy to a range of contemporary welfare debates, dilemmas and problems
- Assess and analyse the characteristics and potential future problems in relation to welfare states and their design of social policies.
- Demonstrate an understanding of key components and connections between work (labour market), families and social security systems.

Short answer 2

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **45%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

An assignment task consisting of 5 questions on topical questions in social policy and based on readings. 1250 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the conceptual problems in measuring and evaluating social and economic inequality
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different types of social and economic inequality and society's response to it.
- Apply basic concepts of social policy to a range of contemporary welfare debates, dilemmas and problems
- Assess and analyse the characteristics and potential future problems in relation to welfare states and their design of social policies.
- Demonstrate an understanding of key components and connections between work (labour market), families and social security systems.

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Participation in discussions

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the conceptual problems in measuring and evaluating social and economic inequality
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different types of social and economic inequality and society's response to it.
- Apply basic concepts of social policy to a range of contemporary welfare debates, dilemmas and problems
- Assess and analyse the characteristics and potential future problems in relation to welfare states and their design of social policies.
- Demonstrate an understanding of key components and connections between work (labour market), families and social security systems.

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

Unit Delivery in 2025

This unit is delivered via 'fully online mode' and 'in person weekly scheduled mode'.

For students enrolled in 'In-person, scheduled weekly mode'

- Live, in-person lectures **9am to 11am Mondays weekly** from Thursday 27 July (14SCO 100 Theartrette)
- Tutorials in week 2 (scheduled for Monday afternoons) - check your timetable or email hangyoung.lee@mq.edu.au

For students enrolled in 'fully online' mode

- Lecture recordings will be downloadable from iLearn (usually within 24 hours of live lecture)
- Online discussion forums on iLearn from week 2 (take the place of on-campus tutorials)
- There are no compulsory on-campus sessions

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. Student 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.

Required and recommended resources

There is no required textbook for SOCI2030. 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 unit 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

Marks will be made available via Grademark. Other feedback will be made available online via iLearn. 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 on Leganto. 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.

Zoom

Zoom is an online video conferencing software platform. It will not be used for compulsory unit sessions, but may be used for optional meetings and consultation.

Unit Schedule

Please attend the version of the unit that you are enrolled in. SOCI2030 has 13 topics that are structured into three modules, as the table shows.

Module	Week	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
1. Introduction and concepts	1	<i>Welcome to social policy (31-07)</i>	No tutorial in week 1
	2	<i>The life course and class: how policy addresses social risk (07-08)</i>	Risks over the life-course
	3	<i>Forms of poverty and social policy (14-08)</i>	Why are people poor?
	4	<i>Forms of inequality and social policy (21-08)</i>	The social costs of inequality
	5	<i>Power resources and the welfare state (28-08)</i>	Class, class interests & social policy

2. Comparing social policies and welfare states	6	<i>Key moments in Australia's welfare state (04-09)</i>	Political parties, governments and the evolution of social policies
	7	<i>The Nordic model versus the United States (11-09)</i>	The Nordic experiment
	8	<i>Comparing welfare states: typologies and tools (18-09)</i>	How Australia's welfare state works
		MID SEMESTER BREAK	ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE
3. Problems in Australian social policy	9	<i>Working in Australia and social policy (08-10)</i>	What's wrong with Jobseeker?
	10	<i>Indigenous Australia and social policy (15-10)</i>	After the Voice: Closing the Gap and Indigenous futures
	11	<i>Gender foundations of welfare states (22-10)</i>	Care workforces and the future
	12	<i>Social policy in an ageing society (29-10)</i>	Can we improve Australia's aged care system?
	13	<i>Health policy and inequality + revision (06-11)</i>	What's wrong with Medicare? + Unit wrap

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policycentral.mq.edu.au/) (<https://policycentral.mq.edu.au/>)

[s.mq.edu.au](https://www.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.

Changes from Previous Offering

Weekly topics and readings list revised.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)