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### General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Tues 5-6

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
12cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Modernity is characterised by a number of specific developments such as: democracy, capitalism, industrialism, nationalism, individualism and bureaucratisation. These are partly antagonistic, partly complementary tendencies. In this unit we will be examining these diverse trends through the prism of a range of classical theories of modern society. We will consider from among the following: Marx, Nietzsche, Weber, Durkheim, Mead, the Frankfurt School and Foucault. None of these has the key but we suggest that all remain a vital source of illumination into tendencies and potentials of the contemporary world.

### 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](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:
learn how to think sociologically
learn how to apply those concepts in everyday life
develop writing, research and analytical skills
read and write critically
learn to communicate your own ideas simply and directly

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>workbook</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>week 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 4</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**workbook**

Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **20%**

Tutorials start in week 2 and are compulsory. In the tutorials, you will have an opportunity to discuss questions raised in the lectures, enter debates about the readings, and participate in class exercises. Attendance of tutorials is compulsory. Given that this is a course on social theory, your success will depend on your tutorial participation. The tutorials are also the place where you can prepare yourself for the written tutorial exercises.

Tutorials require your attendance and participation. They are your "space" where you can raise questions, discuss and clarify readings, concepts or other questions around the unit. Only you can make the tutorial work for yourself. Thus, you will need to prepare for each class. This will mean doing the readings for each week and attend the lecture.

In addition to the participation in the tutorial you are required to keep a workbook. The workbook should contain your reflections on lectures, the tutorial and the readings. It should also be about questions that come to your mind as you prepare for each week, comments about topics, summaries of the readings or questions that emerge as we go through the course week by week. We will collect the workbook including your reader at the end of the course (week 13) in order to be able to assess your engagement with the material of the course. The workbook is part of the participation mark (20%).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- learn how to think sociologically
Exercise 1
Due: week 4
Weighting: 20%

Tutorial Exercises 1 - 4
You are required to write four (4) tutorial exercises. Each exercise has to be 600 words long. The task at hand is to choose one (1) of the provided questions from a week (before the due date of the exercise) and answer it by using lecture material, the required reading(s) and the suggested readings as provided in the outline. 600 words is not much. You will need to be concise and get straight to the point. We are not asking for a summary of a theorist’s work but we are asking you to work out a specific idea about modern societies as developed by a theorist.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• learn how to think sociologically
• learn how to apply those concepts in everyday life
• develop writing, research and analytical skills
• read and write critically
• learn to communicate your own ideas simply and directly

Exercise 2
Due: week 6
Weighting: 20%

Tutorial Exercises 1 - 4
You are required to write four (4) tutorial exercises. Each exercise has to be 600 words long. The task at hand is to choose one (1) of the provided questions from a week (before the due date of the exercise) and answer it by using lecture material, the required reading(s) and the suggested readings as provided in the outline. 600 words is not much. You will need to be concise and get straight to the point. We are not asking for a summary of a theorist’s work but we are asking you to work out a specific idea about modern societies as developed by a theorist.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• learn how to think sociologically
• learn how to apply those concepts in everyday life
Exercise 3
Due: week 9
Weighting: 20%
You are required to write four (4) tutorial exercises. Each exercise has to be 600 words long. The task at hand is to choose one (1) of the provided questions from a week (before the due date of the exercise) and answer it by using lecture material, the required reading(s) and the suggested readings as provided in the outline.
600 words is not much. You will need to be concise and get straight to the point. We are not asking for a summary of a theorist's work but we are asking you to work out a specific idea about modern societies as developed by a theorist.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• learn how to think sociologically
• learn how to apply those concepts in everyday life
• develop writing, research and analytical skills
• read and write critically
• learn to communicate your own ideas simply and directly

Exercise 4
Due: week 13
Weighting: 20%
Tutorial Exercises 1 - 4
You are required to write four (4) tutorial exercises. Each exercise has to be 600 words long. The task at hand is to choose one (1) of the provided questions from a week (before the due date of the exercise) and answer it by using lecture material, the required reading(s) and the suggested readings as provided in the outline.
600 words is not much. You will need to be concise and get straight to the point. We are not asking for a summary of a theorist's work but we are asking you to work out a specific idea about modern societies as developed by a theorist.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• learn how to think sociologically
• learn how to apply those concepts in everyday life
• develop writing, research and analytical skills
• read and write critically
• learn to communicate your own ideas simply and directly

Delivery and Resources

Changes since last offering. No changes.

Technologies used. This unit has a presence on ilearn and you will be required to have regular access to a reliable broadband internet connection and a computer.

Required Readings.

Week 1 Introduction to Theories of Modernity No required readings


Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Calender</th>
<th>Theories of Modernity: Themes of the course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Lecture (no tutorial!)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

**Student Services and Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**Student Enquiries**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

**IT Help**


When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

**Graduate Capabilities**

**Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative**

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing
environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- read and write critically

**Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- learn to communicate your own ideas simply and directly

**Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills**

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- learn how to think sociologically
- read and write critically

**Assessment tasks**

- workbook
- Exercise 1
- Exercise 2
- Exercise 3
- Exercise 4

**Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questionning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to
critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- learn how to think sociologically
- develop writing, research and analytical skills
- read and write critically

**Assessment tasks**

- workbook
- Exercise 1
- Exercise 2
- Exercise 3
- Exercise 4

**Problem Solving and Research Capability**

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- learn how to apply those concepts in everyday life
- develop writing, research and analytical skills

**Assessment tasks**

- workbook
- Exercise 1
- Exercise 2
- Exercise 3
- Exercise 4

**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.
This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- learn how to apply those concepts in everyday life

**Assessment task**

- workbook

**Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- learn how to think sociologically
- read and write critically
- learn to communicate your own ideas simply and directly

**Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens**

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- learn how to apply those concepts in everyday life

**Assessment tasks**

- workbook
- Exercise 4

**Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible**

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.
This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment tasks**

- workbook
- Exercise 1
- Exercise 2
- Exercise 3
- Exercise 4