



SOC 222

Theories of Modernity

S1 Day 2019

Dept of Sociology

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>	6
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6
<u>Graduate Capabilities</u>	8

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Harry Blatterer

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Contact via harry.blatterer@mq.edu.au

AHH Level 2

email for appointment

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp at 100 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The central project of sociology as a discipline is to reflect upon the character of our modern world and, in helping us to better understand our contexts to aid our ability to be the free agents of our own futures. In this unit we introduce some of the great theorists in the sociological tradition and learn what they have to say about modernity and modern societies. One of the core units in our undergraduate program, this unit traces the different ways in which some major theorists of modernity have analysed intersecting axes of modern development. The unit will demonstrate how much we still owe to these thinkers as well as considering their respective shortcomings.

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:

Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures, institutions and human agency.

Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.

Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory

Effective communication of sociological knowledge and research to expert and lay audiences, as an individual or in a team

Develop excellence in critical thinking and writing skills.

Ability to think critically about social problems and their ethical consequences.

General Assessment Information

All four tutorial exercises are to be submitted via Turnitin by 5pm on the due dates.

Late Submission Penalty

*Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted **per day** for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.*

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation	20%	No	Ongoing
Essay 1	20%	No	Week 6, 5 April
Essay 2	30%	No	Week 8, 3 May
Essay 3	30%	No	Week 13, 7 June

Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Participation requires you to **think about the topics and discuss them with others** in preparation for your written assessment tasks.

Your contribution will be assessed on the basis of your familiarity with and understanding of the weekly unit contents.

For **external/OUA students** participation requires going on the **weekly discussion boards** on iLearn where you will discuss the readings and their relevance to contemporary social issues. You are expected to post your contributions **during the same week in which a particular topic**

is discussed (by Sunday evening of that week at the latest).

For **internal students** participation requires engaging in on-campus tutorial activities. This means you will have read the weekly readings and prepared notes about them to bring to the seminar.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Effective communication of sociological knowledge and research to expert and lay audiences, as an individual or in a team
- Develop excellence in critical thinking and writing skills.
- Ability to think critically about social problems and their ethical consequences.

Essay 1

Due: **Week 6, 5 April**

Weighting: **20%**

This research essay aims to give students the opportunity to show their comprehension of the material covered in the unit by way of a standard essay (Introduction, body, conclusion)

The questions and additional information will be posted on iLearn in advance.

Word count (including in-text and listed references): 1000

Submit assignment through turnitin.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures, institutions and human agency.
- Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.
- Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory
- Effective communication of sociological knowledge and research to expert and lay

audiences, as an individual or in a team

- Develop excellence in critical thinking and writing skills.
- Ability to think critically about social problems and their ethical consequences.

Essay 2

Due: **Week 8, 3 May**

Weighting: **30%**

This research essay aims to give students the opportunity to show their comprehension of the material covered in the unit by way of a standard essay (Introduction, body, conclusion)

The questions and additional information will be posted on iLearn in advance.

Word count (including in-text and listed references): 1400

Submit assignment through turnitin.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures, institutions and human agency.
- Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.
- Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory
- Effective communication of sociological knowledge and research to expert and lay audiences, as an individual or in a team
- Develop excellence in critical thinking and writing skills.
- Ability to think critically about social problems and their ethical consequences.

Essay 3

Due: **Week 13, 7 June**

Weighting: **30%**

This research essay aims to give students the opportunity to show their comprehension of the material covered in the unit by way of a standard essay (Introduction, body, conclusion)

The questions and additional information will be posted on iLearn in advance.

Word count (including in-text and listed references): 1400

Submit assignment through turnitin.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures, institutions and human agency.
- Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.
- Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory
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Delivery and Resources

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

Weekly Readings

You will find these listed in your online unit in iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). 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](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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 ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

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.

Graduate Capabilities

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 outcomes

- Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures, institutions and human agency.
- Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.
- Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory
- Effective communication of sociological knowledge and research to expert and lay audiences, as an individual or in a team
- Develop excellence in critical thinking and writing skills.
- Ability to think critically about social problems and their ethical consequences.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Essay 3

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:

Assessment task

- Participation

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 outcomes

- Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures, institutions and human agency.
- Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.
- Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory
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- Develop excellence in critical thinking and writing skills.
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Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Essay 3

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

- Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures,

institutions and human agency.

- Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.
- Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory
- Effective communication of sociological knowledge and research to expert and lay audiences, as an individual or in a team
- Develop excellence in critical thinking and writing skills.
- Ability to think critically about social problems and their ethical consequences.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Essay 3

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning 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

- Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures, institutions and human agency.
- Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.
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- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Essay 3

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

- Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures, institutions and human agency.
- Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.
- Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory
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Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Essay 3

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

- Understand and integrate a range of theories and principles relating to social structures, institutions and human agency.
- Evaluate and apply critical concepts, theories and thinkers in classical and contemporary sociology.
- Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory
- Effective communication of sociological knowledge and research to expert and lay audiences, as an individual or in a team
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- Ability to think critically about social problems and their ethical consequences.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay 1
- Essay 2
- Essay 3

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

- Identify and solve sociological problems in some of the following areas: cultural sociology; work and employment; migration; crime and deviance, gender; social policy; human services; economic sociology; and sociological theory

Assessment task

- Participation