Callaghan Campus
University Drive,
Callaghan 2308
NSW Australia
Office hours: 9am - 5pm
Room: MC127 McMullin Building
Phone: 4921 5172/5175/5155
Fax: +61 2 4921 6933
Email: Humanities-Socialscience@newcastle.edu.au
Web: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/

Course Co-ordinator: Terry Leahy
Room: W342
Ph: 49216106
Fax: 49216933
Email: Terry.Leahy@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Tuesday 11 - 12; Wednesday 11 - 12; Thursday 3 - 4

SOCS1100 - Professional Practice and Key Debates in the Social Sciences
Course Outline

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2007
CTS Download Date: 19th June 07
SOCS1100 - Professional Practice and Key Debates in the Social Sciences
Course Outline

Course Coordinator: Terry Leahy
Semester: Semester 2 - 2007
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods
Lecture
Seminar
Computer Lab

Brief Course Description
This course is a prescribed course for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Science and is only available to students enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Science program.

This course comprises two streams. The first stream introduces students to the utility of the Social Sciences in terms of the nature of work and range of careers available, with a focus on key social issues and debates in social policy, program management and social research. The second stream consists of a series of practical workshops that provide students with a foundation of professional skills, including: computer literacy, effective use of the internet, and competency with word processing, spreadsheets, databases and presentation software as they apply in the Social Sciences. Other aspects of professional practice such as written, oral and interpersonal communication skills, and working in groups are also covered.

Contact Hours
Computer Lab for 2 Hours per Week for 5 Weeks
Lecture for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for 9 Weeks

Learning Materials/Texts

TEXTBOOK
All students must purchase this text book in order to participate in the computer labs and to complete your Research Report (40%). It is available from UCBookshop on the Callaghan Campus and the Coop Bookshop on the Central Coast Campus:

Copestake, Stephen 2003, Office XP Professional: In Easy Steps, Computer Step, Southam, UK.

BOOK OF READINGS
It is essential that you purchase the book of readings for this course. You will need to bring it to every workshop and it will be necessary reading for your essay (40%) and research report (40%). For Callaghan campus students, it will be available from Uprint behind the Union Building underneath the Godfrey Tanner Bar and next to the steps at the back of the Union. On the Central Coast this text will be available from the Coop bookshop.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
This is a very useful book for most aspects of this course connected with research – for example on focus groups, ethics and values in the social sciences.

**Course Objectives**
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of foundational social science knowledge and debates in the areas of program management, policy analysis and social research.
2. Critically appraise and discuss the relevant literature.
3. Demonstrate competency in the use of a range of information and communication technologies.
4. Demonstrate competency in written, oral, group work and interpersonal communication skills.

**Course Content**
This course introduces students to the foundational skills and knowledge required for professional practice in a range of Social Science related careers, with a focus on social research, social policy and program management. Seminars will provide foundational knowledge of social research methods, including epistemological debates and links between social theory and various methods; an understanding of the key aspects of the social policy-making process, and an introduction to the nature of program development and management. Tutorial Workshops will cover: foundational computer skills (word processing, spreadsheets and critical use of the internet), effective library research (including use of electronic databases), time management, research report and essay writing, presentation skills and use of MS PowerPoint, referencing and plagiarism, managing group work, and interpersonal communication skills.

**Assessment Items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>Essay (2,000 words); 40%; due week 14 5 pm Friday Nov 2nd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>Participation 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>Career Portfolio and plan (1000 words); 10%; due week 14. 5pm Friday Nov 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports</td>
<td>Research Report (2,000 words); 40%; due week 7 5 pm Fri Aug 31st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assumed Knowledge**
SOCA1010 Society and Culture: A Sociological Introduction.

**Callaghan Campus Timetable**
**SOC51100**
**PROF. PRACTICE & KEY DEBATES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computer Lab</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>15:00 - 17:00</th>
<th>[CT311]</th>
<th>Wks 2, 4, 6, 9, 11.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>15:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>[CT304]</td>
<td>Wks 2, 4, 6, 9, 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>15:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>[CT314]</td>
<td>Wks 2, 4, 6, 9, 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>[CT109]</td>
<td>Wks 2, 4, 6, 9, 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Lecture and Workshop</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>13:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>[SRLT1]</td>
<td>Wks 1,3,5,7,8,10,12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>[W243]</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
or Wednesday 15:00 - 17:00 [W326A] Wks 1,3,5,7,8,10,12 - 14.

or Thursday 15:00 - 17:00 [MCG28C] Wks 1,3,5,7,8,10,12 - 14.

or Wednesday 12:00 - 14:00 [MCG25] Wks 1,3,5,7,8,10,12 - 14.

**Ourimbah Timetable**

**SOCS1100**

**PROF. PRACTICE & KEY DEBATES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science

Semester 2 - 2007

Computer Lab Wednesday 16:00 - 18:00 [O_IT06] Wks 2, 4, 6, 9, 11.

and Lecture Wednesday 15:00 - 16:00 [O_CS2.18] Wks 1,3,5,7,8,10,12 - 14.

and Workshop Wednesday 16:00 - 18:00 [O_CS2.05] Wks 1,3,5,7,8,10,12 - 14.

**Plagiarism**

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking.
Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

Changing your Enrolment

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2007

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the
Student Hubs.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html

Faculty Information

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

Callaghan campus
- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

City Precinct
- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

Ourimbah campus
- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

Faculty websites

Faculty of Education and Arts
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

Contact details

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie
Phone: 02 4921 5000
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

Ourimbah
Phone: 02 4348 4030
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

The Dean of Students
Resolution Precinct
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:
Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

Online Tutorial Registration:
Students are required to register in the Seminar or Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system:
β http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm
Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

Hard copy submission:
β Type your assignments: All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font.
   Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
β Word length: Assignments that fall short of the word length will not be accepted.
   Longer assignments will not be penalized but lecturers cannot be expected to read all of a longer document in deciding on the result.
Proof read your work because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.

Staple the pages of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).

University Assessment Item Coversheet: All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at:

By arrangement with the relevant lecturer, assignments may be submitted at any Student Hub located at:
- Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
- Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
- Ground Floor, University House, City
- Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah

Date-stamping assignments: All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. If mailing an assignment, this should be addressed to:

Terry Leahy
Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Newcastle
University Drive
Callaghan
NSW 2308

Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.

Do not fax or email assignments: Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.

Keep a copy of all assignments: It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

Online copy submission to Turnitin
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reports</th>
<th>Research Report (2,000 words); 40%; due week 7 5 pm Fri Aug 31st</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Essay (2,000 words); 40%; due week 14 5 pm Friday Nov 2nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

Penalties for Late Assignments
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Assignments submitted after the due date might not be included for assessment. No penalty will apply if the student has submitted an Application for an Extension of Time by the due date and the application is approved by the Course Coordinator.

Special Circumstances
Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html
**Assignment Re-submission**
Students who have failed an assignment are permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. In such cases students cannot achieve more than a pass grade with their re-submission. Students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

**Re-marks**
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/

**Return of Assignments**
Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Hub to go to and the earliest date that assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

**Preferred Referencing Style**
In this course, it is recommended that you use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:


See also:


**Student Representatives**
Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

**Student Communication**
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

**Essential Online Information for Students**
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:
## Grading guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>Fail (FF)</td>
<td>An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% to 64%</td>
<td>Pass (P)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65% to 74%</td>
<td>Credit (C)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% to 84%</td>
<td>Distinction (D)</td>
<td>Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85% upwards</td>
<td>High Distinction (HD)</td>
<td>All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Seminar and Computer Lab Topics and Tasks</th>
<th>Tasks Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus groups and interviews in the social sciences – qualitative research</td>
<td>Introducing ourselves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explaining the course guide</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Setting up the focus groups</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Developing focus group topics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranging cassette recorders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluting evidence. Plagiarism.</td>
<td>Finding info on the net</td>
<td>Conduct the focus group interview and tape it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Searching library databases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bias and values in the social sciences</td>
<td>Bias and values in the social sciences</td>
<td>Find info on your topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tables and descriptive statistics in the social sciences</td>
<td>Tables in Excel Spreadsheets: Part One</td>
<td>Divide up transcription task in your group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to do interviews and focus groups</td>
<td>How to write up your focus group tapes</td>
<td>Transcribe the taped interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to code and analye interview data</td>
<td>Tables in Excel Spreadsheets: Part Two</td>
<td>Prepare a table</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Focus at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2007*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Welfare and Governmentality</th>
<th>Social Welfare and Governmentality</th>
<th>Begin your key debates essay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to discuss a topic in an essay format</td>
<td>PowerPoint Presentations: Part One</td>
<td>Start your career portfolio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping Social Inequality and Cultural Diversity with Survey Data</td>
<td>Mapping Social Inequality and Cultural Diversity with Survey Data</td>
<td>Prepare your PowerPoint for key debates essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career choice and careers in social science</td>
<td>PowerPoint Presentations: Part Two</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semester Recess: Monday 1 October – Friday 12 October**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Concept of Social Capital</th>
<th>The Concept of Social Capital</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Middle Class – Neo Marxist Approaches</td>
<td>The Middle Class – Neo Marxist Approaches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Review and Party | Review and Party | **Due date - Friday Nov 2nd**
**Career portfolio**
**Essay - Key Debates**
Assessment Item 1: Research Report

Controversial topic

Weighting: 40%  Due Date: Week 7 - Friday Aug 31
Length: 2,000 words.

Explanation and timing of the task:

A research report consists of two key sections. The first is a literature review of existing research on a topic. The second is the report and analysis of your own original data.

For this research report the data will be a taped focus group interview with a number of students from your seminar and computer lab group. The topic will be attitudes to a controversial social issue. Your group will be asked to devise a topic of the kind that may be the subject of investigation in the social sciences. You can imagine that a research company is asking you to investigate the topic – “What do young people think about …?”.

In week one your group will work out a topic which is likely to engender debate and discussion in your group, making it suitable as a focus group topic. For example “Drugs in Sport”; “Divorce and Single Fathers” and so on. Preferably, choose a topic that you do not all agree about.

In the second week your group will meet to conduct the focus group.

In weeks five and six you will be instructed in methods to write up and and analyze interview data. It would make sense for your group to meet in week four and divide up the task of transcription so you all transcribe a part of the tape and join the transcription together for analysis by each student for their own report. By week six it would be sensible to write up your analysis of the transcript for your research report, finalizing the report by the end of week seven. Make sure that you include extended paragraph long pieces of interview transcript for analysis within the report; not just snippets and one sentence examples. See examples below of analysis of interview material to give you an idea of the kind of thing you should be doing.

In the second week you will also be instructed on methods for searching databases so that you can review existing research on a topic. The research report task requires you to conduct a search of databases and find between three and five articles from academic journals which you will summarize and discuss for the review of existing research on your group’s topic. Also prepare a reference list for the articles you use. It would make sense to begin this task in the third week. In addition to the material presented in the book of readings the library tutorials on the web called “infoskills” have some excellent instruction on this topic.

In weeks four and six, you will be instructed on how to prepare a table in an Excel spreadsheet. During the course of your database search on your focus group topic you will have come across a number of tables or numerical data of some kind. For your research report you will be expected to prepare this data as at least two tables in Excel spreadsheets. Please enter the data yourself and prepare your own tables – do not cut and paste from the net or other source. Under each table explain in your own words the meaning of the table as data relevant to your topic. You will need to cite the source for the information in the table. These tables will be included as part of your review of existing research on the topic. It would be sensible to complete this part of the task in week six.

See the week by week summary of the course for reminders on the timing of this task.

The assessment task:

Prepare a research report on a controversial social issue and people’s attitudes to that issue - as revealed in a focus group interview. The report must include a discussion of existing research on the issue; as well as at least two tables of data prepared in Excel spreadsheets by you - and derived from your database search. It must also include a report of the focus
group discussion with your own analysis of examples of interview transcript. The conclusion should discuss the relationship between your own findings and the existing research.

Example and format for a research report:

The following resources will be placed in short loans to give students an idea of what a research report in the social sciences looks like - and to set out the format for a research report:

Leisure & Tourism Discipline, Guidelines for the Preparation and Presentation of Written Work, Section 2, Reports.


Examples and discussion of how to transcribe and analyze interview data

The following resources will be placed in short loans to help students to get a deeper understanding of different ways to approach interview data.


Assessment Item 2: Career Portfolio

Weighting: 10%  Due Date:  Week 14 – Friday, Nov 2
Length: 1,000 words

Instructions: In week 11, the lecture will be concerned with career development in the social sciences. For this assignment students will collect these materials together:

• job advertisements in the field the student wishes to enter,
• a resume of work experience so far (whether in the social sciences or not),
• a curriculum vitae of training and education that you have already completed,
• a plan of what the student intends to do in coming years to ensure employability in their chosen field,
• a discussion of the students ambitions and interests for a career.

There is no definite format for this assignment; students will make their own decisions about how to organise the material referred to in the list above. In other words, just collect and prepare the materials listed above and put them in a folder. Do not worry if you are planning a career outside the social sciences (e.g. psychology). Just carry out the assignment above in terms of your intention to enter the career of your choice.

Careers service


You can also register your email with Careers & Employment to receive advanced notification of part-time job vacancies, program related job opportunities (including traineeships and vacation work), and graduate opportunities.

Careers & Employment run a number of career related activities throughout the year, including the annual Careers Expo, seminars and professional development programs, job application checking service, interview practice and careers counselling sessions.
Assessment Item 3: Essay

Key Debates in the Social Sciences

Weighting: 40%  Due Date:  Week 14 – Friday, Nov 2
Length: 2,000 words

Instructions: The essay topics cover the key debates handled in the lecture series. Students will be expected to make use of at least 5 academic references for their essay topic for the essay they choose. It is expected that students will begin with the references listed below for their essay topics - before searching for further material. The references listed here will be available in short loans. Essays should be written in academic genre (like an article in an academic journal) with a proper referencing and reference list. For most essays, the following textbook is an excellent introduction to the issues.


In weeks 9 and 11 the Computer Lab instruction will be on how to prepare presentations in PowerPoint. For this assessment item, students will also summarise the essay in PowerPoint format, making a printed copy of the powerpoint slides to include with their essay.

Essay Topics and Readings: Choose ONE of the following.

Essay Topic One: How has what has been called neo-liberalism or economic rationalism affected the welfare state in Australia and other wealthy nations? Overall, has there been a drop in standards of living, feelings of security or social connection resulting from these changes?


Essay Topic Two: Explain some of Foucault’s ideas about power, knowledge, the disciplinary society and governmentality. How do some authors use these concepts in their own research on these changes?


Smart, Barry 1985, Michel Foucault, Routledge, London, pp. 71 – 144..

Essay Topic Three: Is it realistic to expect that social science can ever be free of values, objective or unbiased? Instead of this, should social science become partisan and committed, working in the interests of less privileged groups in society?


Silverman, David 1995, Interpreting Qualitative Data: Methods for Analysing Talk, Text and Interaction, SAGE, London,


Essay Topic Four: What is Putnam's concept of social capital? What are some of the ways in which this concept has been used or criticised?


Essay Topic Five: According to the Ehrenreichs, the role of the middle class is to discipline, control and guide the working class. It is this fact which leads to working class resistance and resentment of the middle class. Examine this approach.


Pont, Jennifer 1997, Heart Health Promotion in a Respectable Community: An Inside View of the Culture of the Coalfields of Northern New South Wales, PhD, University of Newcastle, pp. 121 – 144.


Assessment Item 4: Participation

**Weighting:** 10%

Students are required to attend seminars and computer labs. If you are unable to attend for more than two weeks, arrangements must be made with the lecturer.

Students are required to undertake the weekly reading and participate in discussion organised around that. The participation mark will be an overall grade, taking into account participation in all seminars and computer labs.