SOCS2200 - Social Analysis: Key Perspectives in the Social Sciences

Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Steven Threadgold
Room: W317
Ph: 49 21 5919
Fax: 49 21 6933
Email: Steven.Threadgold@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: tba

Semester: Semester 1 - 2010
Unit Weighting: 10

Brief Course Description
This course is a prescribed course for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Science. It is open to other students as an elective.

In this course students examine key topics and perspectives in the social sciences, relevant to social science careers. Theory and contemporary research on social class and inequality, social capital, gender, the state and social policy, bureaucracy and work, and the welfare state are covered.


Course Objectives
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of a range of social theories and research relevant to the Social Sciences.
2. Critically appraise and discuss the relevant literature.
3. Communicate understanding of social theories and debates in written and oral forms.
4. Apply the insights of social theory to professional practice in the Social Sciences, particularly in the areas of social research, social policy and program management.

Course Content
Theories of social class (Marx and Weber); the "end of class" debate; the experience of social inequality.
1. Bureaucracy (Weber's model); deskilling and work; the McDonaldization thesis.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2010

CTS Download Date: 11.2.10
2. The 'capitalist state'; the welfare state, globalisation and economic rationalism.
3. Governmentality and normalisation.
4. Social capital; the theory of declining social capital; the engineering of social capital.
5. Gender; the materialist-feminist model; gender in work and domestic life today; gender inequality and social services.

Assessment Items

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written</td>
<td>2000 words; 40%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Tests</td>
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Assumed Knowledge
40 units of study at 1000 level.

Callaghan Campus Timetable

SOCS2200
Social Analysis
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 - 2010
Lecture and Tutorial Monday 9:00 - 10:00 [PG08]
or Monday 10:00 - 11:00 [V108]
or Monday 11:00 - 12:00 [V105]
or Monday 13:00 - 14:00 [V109]
or Monday 14:00 - 15:00 [V102]
or Wednesday 9:00 - 10:00 [W243]

Ourimbah Timetable

SOCS2200
Social Analysis
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 - 2010
Lecture Tuesday 12:00 - 13:00 [O_CN2104]
and Tutorial Tuesday 15:00 - 16:00 [O_CN2112]
or Tuesday 14:00 - 15:00 [O_CN2112]

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

Academic fraud is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:

a) falsification of data;

b) using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;

c) reusing one's own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);

d) making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;

e) bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and
f) making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.

g) contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one's own.

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- a) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- b) using another person's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- c) collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

**Turnitin** is an electronic text matching system. During 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 text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS**

Students can access the University's policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html)

**MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM**

All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS**

*Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations* items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy specified in [Late Penalty](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html) (under student) at the link above.

Requests for Extensions of Time must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:

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

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

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

**Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:**

- Special Consideration Requests must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of the examination period.

*Late applications may not be accepted.* Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating
circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**

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 contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, 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 on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability.

**CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT**

Students enrolled after the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.


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

**Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term**, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online go to myHub: [https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au](https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au)

**STUDENT INFORMATION & CONTACTS**

Various services are offered by the Student Support Unit: [www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/)

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia. Student Hubs are located at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus</th>
<th>Port Macquarie students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building</td>
<td>contact your program officer or <a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre</td>
<td>Phone 4921 5000</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Precinct</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Hub &amp; Information Common, University House</td>
<td>Singapore students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)</td>
<td>contact your PSB Program Executive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria</td>
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**OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Websites</th>
<th>Dean of Students Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/business-law/</a></td>
<td>The Dean of Students and Deputy Dean of Students work to ensure that all students receive fair and equitable treatment at the University. In doing this they provide information and advice and help students resolve problems of an academic nature. <a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/dean-of-students/">http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/dean-of-students/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/</a></td>
<td>Phone:02 4921 5806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/">www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/</a></td>
<td>Fax: 02 4921 7151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Assessment

**Assessment Items**

<table>
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<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>2000 words; 40%; Due: Week 5, Thursday April 1st, 4pm.</td>
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<td>Examination: Take Home</td>
<td>2000 words; 30%; Week 12-14</td>
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<td>In Class Tests</td>
<td>1000 words; 30%; Each week in tutorials.</td>
</tr>
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**Essay**

2000 words, worth 40% DUE: WEEK 5, Thursday April 1st, 4pm.

Choose only ONE (1) of the following topics. Clearly identify the topic question you are examining.

**Topic 1**

Using relevant theories and sources from the course, critically analyse ways in which individuals construct their own identity and the ways in which it can be constructed for them.

OR

**Topic 2**

In Consuming Life, Zygmunt Bauman argues:

“Individuals become simultaneously the promoters of commodities and the commodities they promote. They are, at one and the same time, the merchandise and the marketer, the goods and the travelling salespeople. They all inhabit the same social space that is customarily described by the term ‘the market’. The test they need to pass in order to acquire the social prizes they covet requires them to recast themselves as products..."
capable of drawing attention to themselves. This subtle and pervasive transformation of consumers into commodities is the most important feature of the society of consumers’.

What does Bauman mean by this? Using theories and research from the course, what evidence is there to support or critique his argument?

OR

Topic 3
Critically analyse and evaluate the notion of ‘equality’, taking into consideration the differing aims and effects of programs and strategies that seek to produce equal access and equal outcomes. What are the implications for issues such as citizenship, disability, class, gender, race and ethnicity (you do not have to cover all these social categories)?

OR

Topic 4
Using the theories of Bourdieu and/or Foucault, critically analyse how issues how power and social class intersect.

NOTE: I am quite happy for enthusiastic students to come up with their own essay topic. For this to happen you have to discuss with me in tutorials exactly what topic and what theories you would like to use so I can construct a question for you. Do not take up this option without first discussing it with me in class.

IMPORTANT ESSAY INFORMATION
Essays need to be referenced in Harvard style: (Author year: page no.) All references need page numbers, not just direct quotes.

Only peer-reviewed academic sources may be used, that is, books and peer reviewed journal articles only. This means 99.99999% of web material is unacceptable. Anyone who uses Wikipedia or a similar online encyclopaedia will instantly fail.

Lecture notes are not to be cited in essays. The textbook should be used as a starting point but should not be used too much as a source through out the essay.

Please take this advice very seriously: it is very likely you will receive a very poor mark if these basic requirements are not followed. Please ask questions in tutorials to clear up any issues you may have.

Take Home Examination
Words: 2000
Weight: 30%
Due: Week 14, Tuesday April 8, 4pm.

This take home examination will be given to students at the end of Week 12.

Questions will be placed on Blackboard by 5pm Friday, Week 12, May 28th. Completed answers must be electronically submitted to Turnitin no later than 5pm on Tuesday April 8 (Week 14).

A hard copy with coversheet attached must also be handed in to the Student Hub (any Hub location for Callaghan students; Ourimbah for Central Coast students) by the same time and date.
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Please note that no extensions will be granted. Submissions will not be accepted after due time and date. While there is over a week to complete the exam, it should not take more than a few hours.

In Class Tests

Worth 30%; Each week in tutorials

In class tests will be in all tutorials from week 2 through to week 13.

This means there will be 12 in class tests. Your final mark will be taken from your best 8 test results.

There will be no extensions or resits for in class tests. If you miss one you will receive zero. In effect, you can miss up to 4 tests and still get 8 test results to make your final score.

The tests will range from multiple choice, to short answer questions, to essay format.

In class tests will take 10-15 minutes of each tutorial.

Tutorial Program and Readings

Students are expected to do the required readings in preparation for lectures and tutorials and encouraged to do further readings on the subject in preparation for assignments.

Week 1 Introduction and Course Overview

Required reading

Recommended readings


Week 2 Issues of Identity

Required reading

Recommended readings


Week 3 Who is ‘in’ and who is ‘out’?

Required reading

Recommended readings


**Week 4 Production and Consumption**

**Required reading**


**Recommended readings**

School of Humanities and Social Science


**Week 5 Consumers and Consumption**

**Required reading**


**Recommended readings**


REMINDER: ESSAY DUE THIS WEEK Thursday April 1

Mid-Semester Break

Week 6 Material Culture and Waste

**Required reading**

**Recommended readings**


Jordan, Chris, [www.chrisjordan.com](http://www.chrisjordan.com) – various photography exhibitions that demonstrate waste


Waste Online, [www.wasteonline.org.uk](http://www.wasteonline.org.uk)
Week 7 Place and Race

**Required reading**

**Recommended readings**


Week 8 Australia and Multiculturalism

**Required readings**

**Recommended readings**


**Week 9 Introducing Globalization**

**Required reading**

**Recommended readings**


**Week 10 Globalization, Consumerism & Inequality**

**Required reading**

**Recommended readings**


**Week 11 Global Development and Post-Development**

**Required reading**

**Recommended readings**


Better Practice’, 5-7 December, 2002. Available at:


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**Week 12 The BIG Issues: The Environment, Food, Climate Change and Peak Oil**

**Required reading**


**Recommended readings**


Bowden, V. 2009, *Uncertainty in a Coal-Dependent Region: How business leaders in the Hunter are responding to climate change*, Honours thesis, University of Newcastle, Australia, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.


**REMEMBER: TAKE HOME EXAM placed on Blackboard Friday May 28**

**Week 13 Social Science and the Big Issues: Conclusion**

**Required reading**


**Recommended readings**


**REMINDER: TAKE HOME EXAM DUE Tuesday June 8 5pm**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 5-11</td>
<td>Semester Recess</td>
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Examination period