



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC/SPOL 214

*Special Topic: Knowledge Power
and Understanding*

Course Outline

CRN: 4653/4655 : 22 POINTS: TRIM 1, 2009
(2 March – 1 July)

COURSE COORDINATOR: DR CAROL HARRINGTON

Room 1006, Murphy Building
Tel: (04) 463 5233 ext 7451
Email: carol.harrington@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: MON 2 – 3PM & WED 1 – 3PM : COTTON 216

LECTURER:

Dr Carol Harrington
Murphy Building, MY 1006
Tel: 463 5233 ext. 7451
e-mail carol.harrington@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Wednesdays 3.10 – 4.00pm

LECTURES:

Mondays 2 – 3pm In Cotton 216
Wednesdays 1 – 3pm in Cotton 216

PROGRAMME LOCATION

The Sociology Programme is located in the Murphy Building with the staff offices on level 10 and administration on level 9. Additional information will be posted on the School's student notice board, which is located on level 9, Murphy building.

AIMS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course introduces students to scholarly debate about how we can gain reliable knowledge of the social world. The course will equip students to assess the merit and problems with sociological knowledge. Students will engage with scholarly arguments about the political effects of different forms of sociological knowledge. We will consider arguments that the social sciences have been a tool of domination. We will also consider how political activists have used sociological knowledge in struggles against oppression. The course draws on the fields of sociology of knowledge and the history and philosophy of science. On completion of this course students will.

- Understand basic concepts from the sociology of knowledge.
- Have introductory knowledge of the history of the social sciences and statistics.
- Be able to recognize the assumptions behind different styles of research design.
- Understand political debates about the appropriate production of social scientific knowledge.

WORKLOAD

The design of the course is based upon an assumption that students will need to spend on course work a minimum of 14 hours each week, including class contact hours. This workload is in accordance with the guidelines put forward by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for 200-level courses.

OUTLINE OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Wednesday classes are a double session and will include discussion of the notebook reading. Please bring the reading to class and be prepared to discuss it. All required readings are in the student notebook which can be purchased from the Student Notes Distribution centre in the Student Union Building.

March 2 & March 4 Sociology of Knowledge: An Introduction

March 4: Discussion: Peter Burke "Sociologies and Histories of Knowledge: An Introduction" *Sociologies and Histories of Knowledge: From Gutenberg to Diderot*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000. 1-17.

March 9 & March 11 Philosophy of Social Science: Cases, Comparisons and Generalization

March 11: Clifford Geertz Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science* Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (eds) Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1994, 213-231

March 16, March 18: Bureaucracy and Knowledge

March 18: Geoffrey C. Bowker and Susan Leigh Star "To Classify is Human" *Sorting Things Out: Classification and its Consequences*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2000. 1-32.

March 23 Guest Lecturer: Dr Alexander Maxwell Classification and Nationalism

March 25

Guest Lecturer: Dr David Pearson

National Movements and Intellectuals

Rogers Brubaker, and Frederick Cooper, 'Beyond "identity"'. In *Theory and Society* 29:1 (February, 2000): 1-47.

March 30

Manufacturing Consent

April 1

Ideology and Critical Theory

Ben Agger. "Hegelian Marxism II: The Theory of Domination" *Western Marxism : an introduction : classical and contemporary sources* Santa Monica, California: Goodyear Publishing Co. Inc, 1979, 145-178.

April 6

Guest Lecturer: Dr Patricia Nickel

Dialectic of Enlightenment: Knowledge, Ideology and Power

April 8

Peer Review Assignment: Student presentation of topics

10 – 26 APRIL

MID TRIMESTER BREAK

April 27

Social Science and Social Coercion

Stewart R. Clegg, David Courpasson, Nelson Phillips "Power and Efficiency" *Power and Organizations*, London: Sage 2006, 39-65

April 29

Peer review

May 2 & May 4

Discourse Analysis

May 4: Nelson Phillips and Cynthia Hardy, "What is Discourse Analysis? The Variety of Discourse Analysis" in *Discourse Analysis: Investigating Processes of Social Construction*, London: Sage, 2002, 1-38.

May 13

Guest Lecturer: Dr Peter Howland
Common Sense and Everyday Life

Howland, P. 2002 A Lucky Dip? The Fun, Excitement and Collusive Hegemony of Lotto. In *Gambling in New Zealand*, B. Curtis (ed), pp217-229. Dunmore press, Palmerston North.

May 18 & May 20

Subjectivity and power in the construction of knowledge

Sabine Grens "Intersections of Sex and Power in Research on Prostitution: A Female Researcher Interviewing Male Heterosexual Clients" *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 30:4 2005.

May 25 & May 27

Problems of Validity

May 27: Peter Burke "Trusting and Distrusting Knowledge: A Coda" *Sociologies and Histories of Knowledge: From Gutenberg to Diderot*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000, 197-212.

June 3

Exam revision

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete more than 50% average of all assessments to meet mandatory course requirements.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

In term work:	60%
Exam (2 hours):	40%

In term work:

Essay and Peer Review

Present your research on the social construction of knowledge about:

- Prostitution; Homosexuality; Breastfeeding; Asperger's Syndrome; ...ideally come up with your own topic.

We will discuss this more in class. If you do not know what to do please send me an e-mail and/or come and see me.

Topics should be limited to a particular place and time.

- Provide a constructive peer review of a colleague's research for this class.

Assignment dates and assessment weighting:

April 8	Student presentation of topics in class	2.5%
April 28	Draft submitted to the essay box on level 9, Murphy bldg by 4pm	2.5%
April 29	Participation in the in-class peer-review process and written peer review	5%
May 12	Submission of the final essay (max 2500 words) to the essay box on level 9, Murphy bldg by 4pm along with first draft, peer review comments, including reviewer's name, and a report of how you incorporated these comments into the final version (or why you didn't)	50%

Exam (2 hours):

Date, tbc but will be held between 15 June – 1 July	40%
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HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS

It is the policy of the School of Social and Cultural Studies that all written assignments must be handed in by **4 pm** on the due date.

You must submit a hard copy and an electronic copy of your essays. Hard copies must be place in the assignment box located to the side of the lifts on level 9, Murphy Building. Electronic copies must be e-mailed to carol.harrington@vuw.ac.nz.

Assignments **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. This is to ensure that all work is properly recorded when submitted, and to avoid problems that have arisen in the past when work has "gone missing".

At 4 pm the assignment box is emptied, the work date-stamped and its receipt recorded, and then handed to the appropriate markers.

School Cover Sheet

Please include a School Cover sheet when submitting your assignments. You may wish to have your own front sheet, but please ensure you place the School's cover sheet on the top as this ensures critical identifying information is provided. A sample School Cover sheet is at the end of this Outline. Further copies may be found at the School Administration office, and on the Assignment Box, on level 9 of Murphy building.

Students MUST keep a photocopy of every written assignment

Unless students have followed this procedure, the School will not accept responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in.

GRADES

The Social Policy Programme follows University policy in giving letter grades for all internally assessed work instead of giving numerical marks. The following table sets out the range of marks within which each letter grade is assigned. Your final grade and marks for the course will be an aggregate of the grades you achieve during the course.

Pass	A+	85% or over	Evidence of familiarity with relevant reading and sound understanding of concepts, plus individual interpretation and insights of a higher order. An A grade will not be achieved without such insight. Work well presented with logical structure and clarity of expression.	
	A	80%-84%		
	A-	75%-79%		
	B+	70-74%		As above, but less individual insight and preparation.
	B	65%-69%		High level of understanding exhibited. Assignment well presented.
	B-	60%-64%		
	C+	55%-59%		Work lacks originality, individual insights and not strong on understanding. However, material used is relevant and presentation is satisfactory.
C	50%-54%			
Fail	D	40%-49%	Little evidence of reading or comprehension. No insight. Poor presentation.	

E Below 40% A clear failure to reach an adequate standard on the criteria set out

LATE PENALTIES

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Note that assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or 7 days after an approved extension date. Work must still, however, be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements.

EXTENSIONS

If you are given an extension, a new submission date will be identified and you will have to submit the work in the same manner as above by 4 p.m. on that day. Failure to do so will result in penalties being applied in the same manner as those for the original submission date. If you need an extension ask Dr Harrington **before** the due date.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source

- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party

Citations and Bibliography

Both essays must contain proper citations. Students may use either in-text citations, or footnotes or endnotes. Your citation format must be consistent. Be sure to include page numbers for citations unless you really are summarising an entire book or article. A good rule to remember is that you should provide enough information about your sources for your reader to be able to trace them. Both essays must include an alphabeticised bibliography listing works cited in the essay. The bibliography **should not** include works consulted but not cited. If you are uncertain about how to do citations please consult Dr Harrington.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES & STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Head of School:	Assoc. Professor Jenny Neale, MY1013 Tel: 463 5827 E-m: Jenny.Neale@vuw.ac.nz
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine MY1023 Tel: 463 6132 E-m: Hal.Levine@vuw.ac.nz
Maori and Pacific Student Liaison	Dr David Pearson, MY1020 Tel: 463 6748 E-m: david.pearson@vuw.ac.nz
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120 Tel: 463 9980 E-m: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz
School Manager:	Carol Hogan, MY918 Tel: 463 6546 E-m: Carol.Hogan@vuw.ac.nz
School Administrators:	Monica Lichti, Alison Melling, Adam Meers MY921, Tel: 463 5317,E-m: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

Office use only

Date Received: _____

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

CRIMINOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Assignment Cover Sheet

(please write legibly)

Full Name: _____
(Last name) *(First name)*

Student ID: _____ Course (eg ANTH101): _____

Tutorial Day: _____ Tutorial Time: _____

Tutor (if applicable): _____

Assignment Due Date: _____

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

I certify that this paper submitted for assessment is the result of my own work, except where otherwise acknowledged.

Signed: _____ Date: _____