



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC 313/ SPOL 306

Social Inequality

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: Tuesday 28 October 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

This class will be taught through a series of interactive lectures and tutorials.

Lectures	–	Tuesday 10:00 - 10:50	KKLT301
		Thursday 09:00 - 10:50	77 Fairlie Tce FT77306
Tutorials	-	Tuesday 16.10-1700	KK202
		Thursday 11.00-11.50	KK203
		Thursday 16.10-1700	KK202
		Friday 14.10-1500	CO228

Names and contact details

The staff member with overall responsibility for this course is Dr Sandra Grey, who is available to discuss any student queries about the course and assessment.

Course Coordinator

Sandra Grey
Murphy Building, MY 1004
Tel: 04 463 5371
Email: Sandra.Grey@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: 12.30 to 2pm Tuesdays

If Sandra is not available and you have an urgent problem then leave a message with the School Administration on 463 5317 or 463 5258.

The details for the tutor for 313/306 will be posted on Blackboard.

Communication of additional information

Any additional course information will be posted on Blackboard. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to forward messages received from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

An introduction to theories of social inequality and their application to New Zealand.

Course content

Date	Topic	Readings - notes
15 & 17 July	Introduction	Crompton
22 & 24 July	Social divisions and social stratification	Payne; Grusky and Ku
29 & 31 July	Equality, inequality, and social mobility	Turner; Fitzpatrick

5 & 7 August	Class and inequality	Wright; Habbis and Walter; Esping-Andersen; Brommell
12 & 14 August	State responses to income inequality	Held; MacGreggor; O'Brien and Wilkes; Roper; Duncan
19 & 21 August	Race, ethnicity, and inequality	Cornell and Hartman
Monday 24 August Essay 1 Due		
<i>BREAK</i>		
9 & 11 September	State responses to inequalities based on race/ethnicity	James and Saville-Smith; McDonald and Muldoon
16 & 18 September	Gender and inequality	Lister; Bottero; Cornell
23 & 25 September	State responses to gender inequalities	
Monday 29 September Take home test Due (test handed out 18 September)		
30 September & 2 October	The intersection of class, race/ethnicity, and gender	Bottero and Irwin; Acker
7 & 9 October	Global inequalities	
14 & 16 October	The future of inequalities	Wilkinson and Pickett
<i>STUDY WEEK</i>		
Tuesday 28 October Essay 2 Due		

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate familiarity with theories of inequality and the problems of defining social inequality;
2. demonstrate knowledge of the conceptual issues relating to class, gender, race and ethnicity;
3. critically reflect on debates about how different facets of social inequality are or are not inter-related;
4. and, have the skills to join in debates about how class, gender and ethnic divisions relate to selected periods of New Zealand history and major shifts in state policy in past and present times.

Within the course students will:

- Develop critical analysis skills;
- Collect, collate, and analyse both primary and secondary data;
- Be encouraged to write clearly and in a sound academic style, i.e. to produce an argument and marshal evidence for it;
- And be encouraged to attend lectures and tutorials to debate key social issues facing society and appreciate different viewpoints.

Teaching format

Lectures and tutorials.

While attendance at lectures are not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend them, and will be advantaged if they do so.

Students must attend at least 5 of the 9 scheduled tutorials.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- complete two essays
- complete the take home test
- attend at least 5 of the scheduled tutorials

Workload

The expectations are that students will work around 10 hours per point, therefore a 20-point course equates to 200 hours over the trimester. This includes scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks. Each student will vary on the amount of time they will need to put into assignments and readings. On average it is expected that students will spend about 35 hours on the first essay; about 35 hours on the take-home test; and, about 40 hours on the second essay. The rest of the time is spent in class (four hours per week); doing readings (about four hours per week); and in self-directed revision or in group discussions to help understand the broad thrust of the theories and empirical work on inequalities.

Assessment

This course is 100% internally assessed and requires three pieces of work (two essays and a take home test).

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay 1 (2,500 words)	30%	1, 2	Monday 25 August
2	Take home test. (The test will be handed out during the lecture on Thursday 18 September. It contains two essay type questions. Word limit 2,500)	30%	1, 2, 3	Monday 29 September
3	Essay 2 (3,000 words)	40%	3, 4	Tuesday 28 October

Essay 1**Weighting: 30%****Length: 2,500 words****Due: Monday 25 August, 4pm**

Choose ONE of the following questions, drawing on the course readings and other sources, and use particular examples of equality/inequality to illustrate your answer.

1. Social inequality is an entirely relative concept. Critically discuss.
2. Inequality requires us to explore the meaning of equality. Critically discuss.
3. What is social citizenship? Critically discuss its merits in explaining and reducing social inequality in the contemporary world?

The above essay questions are deliberately general. Several of the course readings are designed to assist answering this assignment and you should draw from them explicitly, but please feel free to move beyond them. All the essays can be approached in multi-disciplinary ways. You can certainly remain at a general theoretical level in shaping your answer, and by all means draw on comparative material, but many students may be more comfortable choosing a particular society and drawing upon a specific area(s) of inequality/equality to illustrate and support your answer. Providing a narrower focus is a good rule to follow in all the questions to make their general scope more manageable. There will be time set aside within the tutorial programme to discuss the essay and how best to tackle it.

Take home test**Weighting: 30%****Length: 2,500 words maximum****Due: Monday 29 September 2014, 4pm**

The Take Home Test and will consist of two essay type questions. The paper will be in two sections. In Section A students choose one question from a selection of specific topics discussed in the course; in Section B there will be a single compulsory question relating to a key issue arising from the course as a whole.

All questions on the Test paper will be drawn solely from the lecture content and the book of Course Readings, so please ensure you have good notes and that you have read the pieces in your Course Readings.

The Test has a maximum length of 2,500 words (i.e. the total combined words for both answers).

Essay 2**Weighting: 40%****Length: 3,000 words****Due: 28 October 2014, 4pm**

Devise your own essay question to explore the ways that social inequality is shaped, represented, experienced, negotiated, and challenged in everyday life and/or social policy. For example:

- You might choose a time period (or periods) and examine the general patterns of social inequality within it;
- You might contrast the position of particular social groups or categories affected by social disadvantage; or,
- You might examine a particular feature of social inequality within New Zealand. For example: the impact of changes in income and benefit levels, discrimination in the job/or property market, changes in citizenship and migration patterns, recognition of indigenous rights.

Essay 2 has a maximum length of 3,000 words.

Suggested word lengths for the essays are intended as an approximate guide to students. You will certainly not be penalised for clear, concise and logically argued essays under the number of words suggested. However, you will be marked down for undisciplined, verbose, lengthy essays.

Submission and return of work

Submit a paper copy to the Assignment Box at the SACS Administration Office, Level 9, Murphy Building (to the side of the lifts), by 4pm on the due date. Your essay **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm every day. All work is date-stamped, recorded and then handed to the appropriate markers.

Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm only from Monday to Friday**.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Assignments are due on the dates stated. If for some serious reason you don't think you can get an essay in on time, see Sandra **prior** to the due date and discuss the problem.

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: 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.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

There are no additional materials required for this course with the exception of the course readings.

Set texts

Each student should buy the prepared book of Student Notes from VicBooks since ready access to and familiarity with its contents will be required throughout the course. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Recommended reading

Further readings will be recommended during lectures and some additional material will be posted to Blackboard.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

Head of School:	Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013 Phone: 463 5676, Email: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz
International Student Liaison:	Dr Hal Levine, MY1023 Phone: 463 6132, Email: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz
Maori and Pacific Student Liaison:	Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101 Phone: 463 5432, Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz
Students with Disabilities Liaison:	Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120

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School Manager:

La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918

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School Administrators:

Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling, MY921,

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School of Social and Cultural Studies: www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs