



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC 112

**New Zealand: Sociological
Perspectives**

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Study week: 9 – 13 June 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 13 June to 2 July 2014

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

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

Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday 13.10 - 14.00 Maclaurin LT 103

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: **Dr Rhonda Shaw**
Murphy Building, MY 1007
Tel: 04 463 6134
E-mail: rhonda.shaw@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hour: Friday 10.00 am – 12.00pm

Course Lecturer: **Dr Ben Snyder**
Murphy Building, MY 1020
Tel: 04 463 6748
Email: ben.snyder@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hour: Tuesday 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Communication of additional information

Additional information related to the course will be made available 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 set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

The sociological analysis of New Zealand society.

Course content

March 4	Introduction
March 6	What is sociology? (BS)
March 11	Origins of sociology and European modernity (BS)
March 13	Aotearoa/New Zealand as a settler society (BS)
March 18	Exploring contemporary New Zealand society (BS)
March 20	Diversity, stratification and inequality (BS)
March 25	Power, status, class and ethnicity (BS)
March 27	Sociological methods (RS)
April 1	Ethics in research (RS)
April 3	Becoming masculine and feminine (RS)
April 8	Doing Gender (RS)
April 10	Sport and gender performativity (RS)
April 15	Work and the gendered division of labour (RS)
April 17	Domestic and intimate partner violence (RS)
May 6	Racial and ethnic differences (BS)

May 8	Racism and resistance (BS)
May 13	Sociological perspectives on sexuality (RS)
May 15	Families and identity (RS)
May 20	Families and diversity (RS)
May 22	New family formations (RS)
May 27	What is globalization? (BS)
May 29	Globalization and national identity (BS)
June 3	Youth (sub)cultures and consumerism (BS)
June 5	Conclusion

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

This course aims to introduce you to sociological approaches to the study of New Zealand society. Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Understand and explain a sociological perspective
2. Understand how New Zealand is unique, but also displays similarities with some other societies
3. Critically reflect on how current social patterns in New Zealand reflect a mix of recent changes and historical continuities
4. Understand and discuss how class, ethnicity, gender and age operate in New Zealand society
5. Understand selected aspects of major social processes and key institutions of New Zealand society
6. Explain how these processes and institutions relate to social identities and inequality

Teaching format

Lectures and tutorials.

While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend the lectures.

There are 9 tutorials for this course and students are expected to attend at least 6 of them.

Tutorials start in week 3. Details about tutorial classes will be available at the first lecture.

Enrolment for tutorial classes will be done using the S-Cubed system. The person to contact about tutorial enrolment is Ben Snyder.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Submit Essay 1 and Essay 2
2. Attend at least 6 out of 9 tutorials
3. Attend the 2 hour exam at the end of the course

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 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.

In addition to attending the lectures (24 hours for the trimester) and tutorials (6 – 9 hours) students can expect to spend on average, approximately 40 hours reading preparation for the course, 30 hours preparing for Essay 1, 25 hours preparing Essay 2, and 35 hours preparing for the Final Examination.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2000 word essay	30	1, 2, 3	4pm 17 April
2	1500 word essay	20	3, 5, 6	4pm 6 June
3	Final Examination (2 hours)	50	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	TBA

This course requires two essays (50% internally assessed) and an examination (50% externally assessed).

Essay 1

Weighting: 30%

Due: 4pm, Thursday, April 17

Write a 2000 word essay on one of the following 4 topics:

1. New Zealand society is entirely a product of European modernity. Critically discuss this statement drawing on your knowledge of New Zealand as a society with a colonial past.
2. Sociologists tend to look at the world in a very specific way. Describe the “sociological imagination”. How does it attempt to explain the problem of human suffering? Discuss how the sociological perspective differs from psychological and religious perspectives. In your answer, present at least one example that illustrates how the sociological imagination can help explain a social problem in New Zealand.
3. Informed consent is a critical component of sociological research. Discuss the significance of this principle and its relevance for research practice in New Zealand.
4. Sociologists argue that gender is a fundamental organising principle of social life. Critically discuss, with reference to contemporary New Zealand society.

Essay 2

Weighting: 20%

Due: 4pm, Friday, June 6

Write a 1500 word essay on one of the following 4 topics:

1. Discuss the importance of power and control for understanding intimate partner violence in New Zealand.
2. The nuclear family is a myth. Critically discuss, with reference to different kinds of family formation in New Zealand society.
3. Globalisation has radically reshaped economic life – how people work, how companies make money, and how governments manage national economies. Discuss some of the new types of economic processes that have arisen with globalisation and neo-liberalism. Provide examples of how these changes have affected economic life in New Zealand.
4. Discuss the relationship between youth (sub)cultures and consumerism. Additionally, discuss how globalisation has shaped this relationship. Use specific New Zealand examples to illustrate your answer.

Marking Criteria

Please refer to the ‘Tutorial, Lecture and Essay Writing Guide’ which will be handed out at the first lecture and posted on Blackboard.

The Final Examination

Weighting: 50%

During examination period, 13 June to 2 July 2014

It will be a 'closed book' exam and 2 hours in length. More information will be handed out in tutorials closer to the time and at the last lecture, on June 5.

Submission and return of work

It is the policy of the Sociology and Social Policy programmes that all written assignments must be **handed in by 4.00pm on the due date.**

Assignments must be placed in the assignment box on level 9, Murphy Building, to the side of the lifts. They **MUST NOT** be placed in individual staff pigeonholes, or under staff office doors, or handed to lecturers or tutors.

In addition to submitting a hard copy, essay one and essay two must be submitted to Turnitin to check for academic integrity.

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".

The Assignment Box is cleared at 4.00pm on the due date, all work is date-stamped, and its receipt recorded, and then handed on 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.

Students must keep a photocopy of every written assignment.

Unless students have followed this procedure, the staff will accept **no** responsibility for pieces of written work claimed to have been handed in.

Assignment Cover Sheets

All written work submitted for assessment in Sociology and Social Policy courses must have a School Assignment Cover sheet. Copies can be located on the reception counter at the Administration Office, and on the Assignment Box, on level 9 of Murphy building. This is critical to accurate identification and recording of your work. Assignments must be placed in the assignment box on level 9, Murphy Building, to the side of the lifts. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm on the due date, all work is date-stamped, and its receipt recorded, and then handed on to the appropriate markers. Every effort will be made to return marked assignments within two-weeks of the due date.

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 your course co-ordinator **prior** to the due date and discuss the problem. Extensions of time are not permitted except for illness, or bereavements.

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.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

There are no other arrangements for this course.

Set texts

Each student should buy the set text since ready access to and familiarity with its contents will be required throughout the course.

McLennan, Gregor, Ruth McManus and Paul Spoonley (2010) *Exploring Society: Sociology for New Zealand Students* (Third Edition), Auckland: Pearson Education.

Students 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

An extensive list of readings related to each set of lectures and assignments will be available as a separate document in the first lecture. This supplementary document, called the Tutorial & Essay Writing Guide will also be available on Blackboard.

Class representative

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

Class Rep names and contact details:

Student feedback

SOSC 112 was evaluated in 2013 and student feedback was positive. The Course Evaluation details for SOSC 112 in 2013 will be available at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In 2013 students indicated interest in more information about the following topics: gender, globalisation, and subcultures. You will have an opportunity to participate in the evaluation of this course in 2014.

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/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

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Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120

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School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918

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