



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC 413

Special Topic: Fun and Games: Sociology of Play and Humour

30 Points

TRIMESTER 1 + 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

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

Mid-year break: 3–13 July 2014

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 17 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

Lecture: Thursday 2.10 pm – 4.00 pm Von Zedlitz 104

Names and contact details

Course Co-ordinator Mike Lloyd

Level 10, Murphy building, MY 1015

Tel: 04 463 5678

E-mail: mike.lloyd@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Any additional course information will be posted on Blackboard and announced at tutorials. 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

An examination of humour and play, and connections with modern sports, that aims both to survey broad theoretical approaches and to examine empirical research. Covers scholarship from a variety of disciplines but focuses on the basic parameters of a sociology of humour and play.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. begin sociological exploration of the many ways in which humans laugh and play
2. move beyond rigid distinctions between theory and method to consider the specific details of studies of play and laughter.

Teaching format

The two hour class will be based upon specified readings. Students are expected to participate in the discussion of these readings and as the course progresses be prepared to discuss their own work on humour.

Mandatory course requirements

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

Submit both assessment items by the due date and time.

Workload

The expected workload for this course is 300 hours over the duration of the course. This includes lecture attendance, reading, and set text and class preparation.

Students can expect to spend at least 80 hours preparing assignment one and at least 100 hours preparing assignment 2.

Assessment

Assessment items	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Assignment One: Essay (4000 words)	40%	1,2	June 6
2 Assignment Two: Project Work (6000 words)	60%	1,2	Oct 17

Assignment One: Essay Due: June 6

Weighting 40%

Recommended length: 4,000 words

Choose from **one** of the following topics:

1. 'Humour does not *give* offense; its recipients *take* offense' (Christie Davies, 2008: 6). Discuss.
2. 'It is easy to praise humour for bringing people together in moments of pure, creative enjoyment. But it is not those sorts of moments that constitute the social core of humour, but, instead, it is the darker, less easily admired practice of ridicule'. (Michael Billig, 2005: 2). Discuss.
3. 'My hypothesis is that a joke is seen and allowed when it offers a symbolic pattern of a social pattern occurring at the same time'. (Mary Douglas, 1968: 366). Discuss.
4. Your own essay topic (in consultation with the course coordinator).

Assignment Two: Project Work Due: October 17

Weighting 60%

A project/essay on a topic of your own choice. Any topic relevant to the sociology of play and humour. This should be discussed with the course coordinator before proceeding.

Submission and return of 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, its receipt recorded, and then handed on to the appropriate markers. Every effort will be made to return marked assignments within three weeks of the due date. Marked assignments not collected in lectures 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

Students must speak to the course coordinator if seeking an extension.

Penalties

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy 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.

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. 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.

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/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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