



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social policy

SOSC/SPOL 219

**Ideology, Utopia, Power: Issues
and Paradigms in Political
Sociology**

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 2:10 pm - 4:00 pm MCLT 101

Tutorials: These are beginning third week of trimester; times and venues to be announced.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Chamsy el-Ojeili
Level 10, Murphy Building, MY 1016
Tel: 04 463 6740
E-mail: chamsy.el-ojeili@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: TBA

Communication of additional information

Other additional information related to SOSC/SPOL 219 will be communicated via Blackboard or e-mail. 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

This course deals with the relationships between social identities, interests, ideologies, movements and political institutions. It examines the social roots of political action, focusing on issues such as inequality, conflict, social change, power, citizenship, violence, and globalisation. It explores the major concepts in the field, and covers the work of important sociological figures.

Course content

An outline of lectures, along with recommended readings is available on Blackboard.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the major concepts, traditions, and thinkers in the field of political sociology
2. demonstrate an understanding of the major debates around power, ideology, social movements, social change, conflict, and division
3. demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between political institutions and other social institutions and groupings.

Teaching format

Teaching consists of one two-hour lecture per week, as well as tutorials. Tutorials will begin in the third week of trimester. These tutorials are compulsory, and students need to attend 6 out of 9 as part of mandatory course requirements. More information will be given in lectures about tutorial times and rooms. Enrolment for tutorial classes will be done using the S-Cubed system.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Submit essay one and essay two
2. Sit the exam.
3. Attend 6 out of 9 tutorials.

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.

The approximate workload for study towards essays and the exam is 40 hours each.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay One (2500 words)	35%	1,2	18 April
2	Essay Two (2500 words)	35%	1,2	6 June
3	Exam (two hours long)	30%	1,2,3	TBA

Assessment consists of two essays and a two hour examination. Essay one is worth 35% of your final grade and is due in on 18 April; essay two is worth 35% of your final grade and is due on 6 June; and the exam is worth 30% of your final grade and will be held during the exam period, 13 June to 2 July 2014, with more details available after the trimester break.

ESSAY ONE

Due: 4pm, Friday 18 April

Weighting: 35 % of final grade

Word limit: 2500 words

1. Write a critical essay on the major features of one tradition of political sociology (for instance, traditions deriving from the work of Marx, Durkheim, Weber, or elite theory)
2. Write a critical essay on the concept of power
3. Foucault's rethinking of power/knowledge has been crucial in the making of a new political sociology. Critically discuss.
4. Write a critical essay on social change, with reference to one of the following concepts: post-industrial society; post-Fordism/disorganized capitalism; risk society; the post-modern condition; the information age.
5. "The utopian mentality is withering away" (Kolakowski, 1990). Discuss.
6. Ideology is "the most elusive concept in the whole of social science" (McLellan, 1990). Discuss.
7. Develop your own essay topic in consultation with the lecturer.

ESSAY TWO

Due: 4pm, Friday 6 June

Weighting: 35 % of final grade

Word limit: 2500 words

1. Liberal democracy may constitute the "end point of mankind's ideological evolution" (Fukuyma, 1992). Discuss.
2. Thinkers such as Crouch, Castells, Mair, and Zolo have suggested ours is an age of "post-politics" or "post-democracy". Critically discuss these ideas.
3. Critically discuss post-modern notions about contemporary changes to identity.
4. Numerous commentators have assessed the present period as one of resurgent "tribalism". Assess such arguments with reference to either ethnicity, or nationalism, or religious identity.
5. "Status-groups ... are blurred collective representations of classes" (Wallerstein, 1991). Discuss.
6. Write a critical essay on the development of social movement theory.
7. Drawing on concepts from social movement theory, write an essay on a social movement.

8. Develop your own topic in consultation with your lecturer.

EXAM

Due: Between 13 June to 2 July 2014

Weighting: 30% of final grade

Duration: the final exam is two hours long.

More details regarding date and structure of exam will follow closer to the scheduled date, available after mid trimester break.

Relationship between assessment and learning objectives: The forms of assessment will assist you to achieve the learning objectives outlined above and to develop skills in dealing with the study of political sociology. All three pieces of assessment entail students demonstrating a combination of knowledge of major concepts, traditions, debates, and thinkers in the field, and an understanding of the connections between political and other social institutions and groupings.

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 two-weeks of the due date. 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 your supervisor *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.

You are advised to always keep a copy of any work you submit for assessment.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

There are no other arrangements for this course.

Set texts

There is no set text. A list of recommended reading for each lecture will be posted on Blackboard. Readings for tutorials will be available through Blackboard.

Recommended reading

The following texts are useful overviews of the field of political sociology:

Dobratz, B. A. et al. (2011) *Power, Politics, and Society: An Introduction to Political Sociology* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon);

Faulks, K. (1999) *Political Sociology: A Critical Introduction* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press);

Nash, K. and Scott, A. (eds) (2001) *The Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology* (Oxford : Blackwell);

Orum, A. M. and Dale, J. G. (2009) *Political Sociology: Power and Participation in the Modern World* (Fifth Edition) (Oxford: Oxford University Press);

Taylor, G. (2010) *The New Political Sociology: Power, Ideology and Identity in an Age of Complexity* (London: Palgrave).

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/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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