

Course Outline

School / Portfolio: Faculty of Education and Arts

Course Title: MAKING SENSE OF THE SOCIAL WORLD

Course ID: ATSGC3855

Credit Points: 15.00

Prerequisite(s): (ATSGC2597 or ATSGC2831)

Co-requisite(s): Nil

Exclusion(s): (ATSGC2855)

ASCED Code: 090301

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	✓	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Acquire a broad understanding of classical and contemporary social and sociological theories;
- K2.** Identify, and differentiate between, different social and sociological theories and concepts;
- K3.** Critically analyse the merits and limitations of different social theory and sociological approaches;

Skills:

- S1.** Express reasoned exposition in the written presentation of an argument, including the ways in which sociologists incorporate and acknowledge the ideas of other writers.
- S2.** Analyse specific sociological research topics using databases, the library and other resources.
- S3.** Utilise applied critical reasoning skills in examining theory, methods and assumptions in prior sociological and other social science research.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Utilise and integrate relevant conceptual frameworks in critical thinking to sociology's theoretical knowledge to present day society;
- A2.** Apply critical reasoning skills on readings and other material from the unit;
- A3.** Identify links and tensions between issues, debates, concepts and perspectives.

Course Content:

Topics may include:

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- Introduction to social theory;
- Marx and Durkheim;
- Weber and Simmel;
- American functionalism of Parsons and Merton;
- Symbolic interactionism and the Chicago School;
- Western Marxism;
- Giddens and Bourdieu;
- Structuralism;
- Feminist social theory;
- Postmodernity and social change.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

- V1.** Develop understanding of professional autonomy and accountability in the field of social science;
- V2.** Appreciate the importance of building a sociological understanding of the Australian society;
- V3.** Develop understanding social issues and critically negotiating present public policies
- V4.** Developing an informed sociological imagination in writing and understanding need for argument;
- V5.** Develop a multi-faceted nuanced appreciation of contemporary and historical sociological theories and methods.

Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students develop their abilities to identify and understand the roles of relevant processes, structures, values and actors	High
Self Reliance	Students develop skills in independent research and analysis	High
Engaged Citizenship	Students engage with political values, ideas, concepts, debates and perspectives as influences upon relationships within society	Medium

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Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Social Responsibility	Students develop their understanding of the political sphere, the distribution of political power, rights and responsibilities as key determinants of the roles, status and identities in diverse circumstances	High

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K3 S1, S2, S3 A1	Research and writing skills, topic analysis and identifying key issues, using relevant evidence	Essay	30-45%
K2 S1, S3, A1, A2, A3	Identify a research topic and its defining issues and characteristics, demonstrate capacity to source relevant evidentiary material and develop an argumentative rationale.	Essay	10-20%
K2, K3, S1, S3, A1, A2, A3	Research and writing skills, construction of an informed and substantial argument using relevant evidence.	Examination	40-55%

Adopted Reference Style:

APA