SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC 305

Social Organisation

Course Outline

CRN 1641 : 24 POINTS : TRIMESTER 2, 2008

COURSE COORDINATOR: PROFESSOR KEVIN DEW

Room 1001, Murphy Building
Tel: (04) 463-5291
Email: Kevin.Dew@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES : Wed 11am – 1pm & Thurs 11am – 12noon : Easterfield LT206
COURSE COORDINATOR

Kevin Dew
Murphy building, MY 1001
Tel: 04 463-5291
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OFFICE HOURS

Friday 11am -1pm

LECTURES

Wednesday, 11am -1pm, Easterfield LT206
Thursday, 11am -12noon, Easterfield LT206

COURSE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES

This course examines different sociological and social policy theoretical positions on social order, social change and social organisation and the organisation and consequences of knowledge production.

The term ‘social organisation’ can be viewed as a motif for what sociology is about. The word ‘social’ refers to joint activity; the word ‘organisation’ refers to anything that has a systematic structure, whether inherent to it, or imposed upon it. Thus, this course is about different perspectives on how activities are shaped by systematic structures and in turn shape systematic structures. The course will explore both “macro” and “micro” sociological perspectives on the relationship between organisation and activity.

The second part of the course focuses on knowledge production, in particular, science and technology. This part of the course more specifically draws on debates from the sub discipline of the sociology of science. The focus on science and technology acts as a focus for grounding the more abstract debates about social organisation in particular cases, but in so doing, enables an in-depth exploration of the social bases of knowledge production.

The course aims to:

- Introduce theories of social order, social change and social organisation
- Examine science and technology as social outcomes in relation to these theories
- Encourage students to think critically about sociological arguments in relation to the production of knowledge
LECTURE PROGRAMME

Part I: Organisation, order and change

July 9       Introduction to the course
July 10      Ideology and class
July 16      Foucault and Critical discourse analysis
July 17      Global Regimes and Social Order (TN)
July 23      Discourse analysis and interpretive repertoires
July 24      Structuralist and Functionalist accounts: Durkheim, Parsons
July 30      The Interaction order: Garfinkel and Goffman

Tutorial 1

July 31      The Conversational Order (AW)
Aug 6        Doing Transcription (AW)

Tutorial 2

Aug 7        Sociology of translation: Latour and post ANT
Aug 13       Complexity theory

Tutorial 3

Aug 14       In Class Test

AUG 18 – AUG 31 MID TRIMESTER BREAK

Part II: Knowledge Production

Sep 3        From positivism to constructionism

Tutorial 4: Assignment one

Sep 4        Deviant science, ethics and fraud
Sep 10       Surveillance and the information society

Tutorial 5

Sep 11       New technologies and social change

Sep 12       Assignment one due

Sep 17       Science and the media

Tutorial 6

Sep 18       Science and women
Sep 24  Non-western knowledge
    Tutorial 7

Sep 25  Science and the environment
Oct 1  The spatial organisation
Oct 2  Risk and Trust
Oct 8  Science and controversies
Oct 9  Policing science

Oct 9  Assignment two due

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME
There are seven tutorials for this course. They revolve around practical interpretation of documents in light of the lecture material.

July 30
Aug 6 and 13
Sep 3, 10, 17, and 24

WORKLOAD AND MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Mandatory course requirement is completion of the test and two assignments. While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend lectures, and will be advantaged if they do so. University guidelines stipulate that a half year stage three course should require between 16 to 18 hours per week of student work (this includes class time).
ASSESSMENT

Assessment is internal and involves three pieces of work. The first is a test, the second and third are essays.

In Class Test, Weighting: 25%

Date: Thursday Aug 14

A guidance statement on the test will be handed out at least two weeks before the date of the test.

Essay 1, Weighting: 35%

Due date: 4pm, Friday Sept 12

Write a 2500 word essay in which you compare the strengths and limitations of two theoretical perspectives in relation to the way in which they account for social order (For example, accounts derived from the perspective of Marx, Durkheim, complexity theory, conversation analysis etc.). The starting point of your essay will be lectures 1-10 and readings 1-9 of the Student Notes.

Tutorial 4 on Sept 3rd will be used to clarify ways of approaching this assignment.

Essay 2, Weighting: 35% plus 5% for completing a 200 word commentary

Due: 4pm, Tuesday Oct 9

Write a 2500 word essay on a topic of specific interest to you that relates to the knowledge production and the sociology of science and technology. In this assessment you will illustrate the social dimensions of an issue, phenomena, event or development in science and technology. Before commencing this you need to discuss your proposed topic with Kevin Dew. Tutorial support will be provided for this purpose. Possible ways to approach this essay include:

- Discuss how social and cultural factors influence the development of a particular technology or scientific concept e.g. the pill, the bicycle, DDT, socio-biology.

- Discuss how scientific ideas or a particular technology have affected the social arrangements and circumstances of a particular group or institution e.g. the elderly, pregnant women, infants, clerical workers, the university.

- Take a particular scientific event or technology and examine the way it has been received by the media e.g. climate change, mad cow disease, social networking, technology transfer. A useful resource here is New Scientist.

In addition you will be asked to complete a 200 word commentary on the issues that were raised for you during the process of completing the essay.
Late 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 that 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.*

TEXT BOOK FOR SOSC 305

Each student should buy a copy of the Student Notes from the Student Notes Centre since ready access to and familiarity with its contents will be required throughout the course.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

The following list provides further readings for the lectures and the essay assignments. Some of these readings are collected in the SOSC 305 Student Notes.

**Organisation, Order and Change**

General introductions to sociology will include relevant material related to the first part of the course – organization, order and change.

Specific readings include:

**Ideology:**


**Foucault and Critical Discourse Analysis:**


**Foucault effect: studies in governmentality.** London: Harvester Wheatsheaf, pp. 53-72

**Discourse Analysis and interpretive repertoires**


**Sociology of translation and Actor-Network Theory**


**Complexity Theory:**


**Knowledge Production:**

Some useful journals to look at include:

*Social Studies of Science and Public Understanding of Science*

The following is a selection of books and articles that relate to lecture sessions:


Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press


GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University’s policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hardcopy or under “about Victoria” on the Victoria homepage at: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under “Course Outline General Information” at: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one’s own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning,
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course,
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University’s website: www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html
OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

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School of Social and Cultural Studies
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ANTHROPOLOGY
CRIMINOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Assignment Cover Sheet
(please write legibly)

Full Name: ____________________________________________

(Last name) (First name)

Student ID:________________________ Course (eg ANTH101): __________

Tutorial Day:______________________ Tutorial Time:____________________

Tutor (if applicable):______________________________________________

Assignment Due Date: _____________________________________________

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

I certify that this paper submitted for assessment is the result of my own work, except where otherwise acknowledged.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________