

Sociology

Convener: Dr Tim Marjoribanks

Sociology at the University of Melbourne explores the social patterns characterising contemporary societies. The program also equips students with a range of research skills that allow them to design and carry out data collection and analysis, from in-depth interviewing techniques to computer-based data analysis. Many subjects involve a fieldwork emphasis that underpins the professionally oriented skills that students develop. Majoring students may undertake an internship in a public, corporate or community sector organisation. The program has a strong research identity, with international links to North America, Asia and Europe. Sociology graduates are able to choose a variety of career paths that draw on the substantive areas of their study as well as research skills. Students interested in expanding their interests and knowledge are provided with an articulated structure of higher degree options at the University of Melbourne.

The discipline of sociology involves the study of social practices and relationships. The program at the University of Melbourne focuses on major areas of social change and professional employment. These include the social patterns and issues involved in emerging global cities, media and communications, work and organisations, cyberspace, family transformation, youth issues, health and illness, as well as contemporary forms of social movement and social problems from drug use to poverty. The program in sociology also includes subjects offered through the departments of anthropology, political science, criminology, geography and social theory.

Time commitment to study

As well as scheduled contact hours for lectures, tutorial and seminars a considerable additional time commitment is needed to complete the academic requirements of each subject.

A subject-specific time commitment to study will be provided by your lecturer or tutor at the beginning of semester to help you schedule your workload and successfully manage your time during the semester. In addition, general estimates of the total time commitment required to study a 12.5-point single semester subject in the Faculty of Arts can be found on page 1.

Prerequisites

The program commences at first-year and there are no prerequisites for entry at this level.

The general prerequisite for second/third-year subjects in sociology is 25 points of first-year sociology. Students with a 12.5-point sociology subject and another first-year subject from anthropology, criminology, political science or geography may also proceed.

Diploma in Arts (Sociology)

The Diploma in Arts (Sociology) is only available to students who are currently enrolled in a degree course at the University of Melbourne. It consists of a three-year sequence of study, and adds one year to the duration of your degree.

Students must complete 25 points of first-year subjects and 75 points of second/third-year subjects selected from the lists below, including at least five core subjects. Alternatively, students who have completed appropriate background studies at first year may complete 100 points of second/third-year subjects from the list below, including at least five core subjects.

Requirements for a major

A major in Sociology usually consists of nine 12.5-point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first-year subjects in Sociology (25 points); and
- seven subjects taken at level two or level three (87.5 points), five of which **must** be chosen from the list of Sociology **core** units (62.5 points).

Sociology subjects

First year

Students take two of the following first-year subjects towards a major in Sociology.

| First-year subjects | Sem. |
|---|------|
| 166-107 Media, Politics and Society (<i>p.2</i>) | 1 |
| 166-109 Cyberspace: The Last Frontier? (<i>p.2</i>) | 2 |
| 166-111 Australian Society (<i>p.3</i>) | 2 |
| 166-130 Globalisation, the Social & Identity (<i>p.2</i>) | 1 |

Second/third year and third/fourth year

Students must take **five** of the following subjects at second- or third-year level toward their Sociology major. Subjects offered at third/fourth-year must be taken at level three. Students planning to undertake fourth-year honours should note the honours entry requirements.

| Core subjects | Sem. |
|---|------|
| Sociology | |
| 166-081 Quantitative Social Research (<i>p.2</i>) | 2 |
| 166-082 Work, Management & Globalisation (<i>p.3</i>) | N/A |
| 166-083 Sociology of Youth & Youth Policy (<i>p.3</i>) | 2 |
| 166-085 Identities & Action: Social Movements (<i>p.3</i>) | N/A |
| 166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (<i>p.3</i>) | 1 |
| 166-089 Sociology Internship (<i>p.3</i>) | 2 |
| 166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality (<i>p.3</i>) | 1 |
| 166-091 Medicine, Health and Illness (<i>p.4</i>) | 1 |
| 166-210 Political Communication (<i>p.7</i>) | 2 |
| 166-216 Terrorism: Shifting Paradigms (<i>p.4</i>) | 2 |
| 166-485 Contemporary Sociological Theory (<i>p.4</i>) | 1 |
| Criminology | |
| 191-008 Sociology of Crime and Deviance (<i>p.3</i>) | 1 |
| Geography | |
| 121-017 Society and Environments (<i>p.3</i>) | 2 |
| Social theory | |
| 136-074 Society: Revolutions to Social Movements (<i>p.2</i>) | |
| Optional subjects | Sem. |
| Political science | |
| 166-004 Change & Conflict in Australian Society (<i>p.3</i>) | 2 |
| 166-032 Sexual Politics (<i>p.6</i>) | 1 |
| Social theory | |
| 136-073 Critical Theories (<i>p.2</i>) | 2 |
| Anthropology | |
| 121-457 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (<i>p.4</i>) | 1 |
| 121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (<i>p.2</i>) | 1 |
| Criminology | |
| 191-003 Crime and Public Policy (<i>p.2</i>) | 2 |
| 191-415 Youth Crime and Society (<i>p.3</i>) | 2 |
| 191-417 Corporate and White Collar Crime (<i>p.3</i>) | 1 |
| 191-422 Women, Gender and Crime (<i>p.4</i>) | 2 |
| Geography | |
| 121-015 Development and the Third World (<i>p.2</i>) | 2 |

Honours entry

The prerequisite for entry to fourth-year honours in Sociology is:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA; and
- completion of a major in Sociology with an average grade of H2A or higher over the second/third-year subjects within the major; and
- completion of 166-081 Quantitative Social Research (*p.2*) and 166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (*p.3*).

For information on how to apply see *Applying for Honours* (*p.12*).

Honours requirements

Pure honours

Students undertaking pure honours in Sociology must complete:

- 166-528 Sociology Thesis (*p.4*) (37.5 points); and
- five honours subjects in Sociology chosen from the list below (62.5 points).

Honours and postgraduate diploma students who did not complete 166-485 Contemporary Sociological Theory (*p.4*) at third-year level must complete this subject as part of their fourth-year studies.

Combined honours

Students undertaking combined honours in Sociology and another area of study must complete:

- 166-528 Sociology Thesis (*p.4*) (37.5 points); and
 - two honours subjects chosen from the list below; and
 - three honours subjects in the combined area of study (37.5 points).
- or
- honours thesis in the combined area of study (37.5 points); and
 - two honours subjects in the combined area of study (25 points); and
 - three honours subjects chosen from the list below (37.5 points).

Honours subjects

| | Sem. |
|--|--------|
| 166-410 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry (p.9) | 1 |
| 166-413 Network Society (p.10) | 2 |
| 166-414 Comparative Social Policy (p.5) | 2 |
| 166-415 Organisations, Power and Society (p.5) | 1 |
| 166-516 Social Policy and Social Inclusion (p.5) | 1 |
| 166-518 Policy Research Methods (p.5) | 1 |
| 166-525 Globalisation and Social Policy (p.5) | 2 |
| 121-457 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (p.4) | 1 |
| 121-503 Research Methods and Design (p.8) | Summer |
| 131-471 Indigenous Politics and History (p.22) | 2 |
| 136-531 Genetics in Society (p.10) | 1 |
| 136-532 Reading Texts in Social Theory (p.3) | N/A |
| 136-533 Theories of Modernity (p.3) | 2 |
| 136-534 Imagined Societies (p.3) | 1 |
| 191-417 Corporate and White Collar Crime (p.3) | 1 |
| 191-422 Women, Gender and Crime (p.4) | 2 |
| 191-434 Victims (p.4) | 2 |

Description: Cyberspace is arguably one of the last frontiers known to humankind, yet little is known about its social impact. This subject introduces students to sociological analyses of cyberspace. It critically examines the development, maintenance and potential of cyberspace within a framework that questions the neutrality of technology and also pays particular attention to the social construction of the individual, the collective and wider social institutions. By exploring key contemporary theoretical debates and changing paradigms in sociology about identity, belonging and difference, this subject looks critically at the emergence of cyberspace as a new form of social interaction and organisation. Students will examine the social impact of cyberspace through a series of contemporary issues around the rise of online virtual communities; in particular, the use of fragmented, selected and anonymous online identities; new and existing forms of inequalities in cyberspace, specifically in relation to gender, ethnicity, racialisation and sexuality; the role of the state and private enterprise in promoting and curtailing cyberspace; the relationship between cyberspace and conventional and new forms of social movements.

Assessment: A short paper of 1000 words 25% (due mid-semester), a class test of 1000 words 25% (to be held towards the end of semester), and a research essay of 2000 words 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

Further study

Masters and doctoral thesis supervision is available, depending on the area of research of the candidate. A coursework masters option in social policy is also available.

Career opportunities

Sociologists work in a wide range of areas, in government, private and community sectors. They work on questions such as changing family patterns, changes in ethnic communities, health and employment issues. In the public sector sociologists work in areas such as neighbourhood and community service development, or in social policy in areas dealing with ageing, youth or women's issues and services. They are involved in program implementation and development, in social and environmental impact assessment, and in evaluation in areas such as health programs, urban development or housing policies.

Sociologists also work in the media, public communication and marketing. They are involved in workplace change, employed by union or employer organisations, or work as consultants. They are found in private and public social forecasting organisations. They are involved in community consultations and community relations work, where for example, large organisations such as hospitals have to understand and respond to community concerns or specific groups.

Sociologists are also found in non-government organisations such as social change groups, peak bodies and research and policy organisations such as the Institute of Family Studies.

Sociologists are involved in policy evaluation and program implementation. They are involved in promoting public debate, constructing competing ways of exploring questions facing our society and culture. In a whole range of areas, sociologists are employed in jobs that are part of shaping and making sense of the world we live in.

For more information

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First-year subjects**166-111 Australian Society**

See full subject details on page 3.

166-107 Media, Politics and Society

See full subject details on page 2.

166-109 Cyberspace: The Last Frontier?

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Millsom Henry-Waring

Contact: A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

166-130 Globalisation, the Social & Identity

Note: Formerly available as 166-080. Students who have completed 166-080 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Jui-shan Chang

Contact: Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject introduces students to basic sociological concepts and perspectives that explore the nature of globalisation and the impacts of globalisation on the self/selves and societies (in Australia and beyond) in everyday life. A multi-level framework will be introduced with four different levels taken into consideration: a globalised world, nations/states, institutions and individuals. Each of the levels has been changing rapidly, resulting in blurred boundaries, diverse meanings, new risks and uncertainties. This subject enables students to critically examine social phenomenon (in the areas of race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, gender, family, education, religion, beliefs, popular culture, work, etc). Also, a transcultural comparative approach will be utilised to illustrate how different societies and individuals respond to globalisation in different ways as well as how local culture and activities can develop global significance.

Assessment: An in-class test of 1000 words 30% (due in the second half of the semester); a project of 3000 words 70% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

MB Steger, *Globalisation: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press 2003. • R Senett, *The Corrosion of Character: Personal Consequences of Work in the New Capitalism*, WW Norton and Company 1998.

Second/third-year subjects**Core subjects****166-081 Quantitative Social Research**

Note: Students intending to do fourth-year honours in sociology must have completed this subject as part of their major.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Jui-Shan Chang

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year subjects in Sociology, Political Science or a related area.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial/workshop per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject introduces students to the logic and major processes of quantitative research focusing on survey research in particular. Students are taught how to do quantitative research via hands on experience in workshops or labs. Topics covered include research design, conceptualisation and operationalisation, questionnaire design, sampling and preliminary data analysis. This subject is relevant to research and to the informed interpretation of quantitative data in a range of disciplines. It is also relevant to employment in environments where survey data is collected or applied, including government, commercial, health and community organisations.

Assessment: Workshop assessments of 2500 words 45% (due during the semester), an in class test of 800 words 30% (to be held mid semester), and lab worksheets totalling 700 words 25% (due during lab sessions).

Prescribed texts: E Babbie, *The Basics of Social Research*, Wadsworth Publishing 1999.

166-082 Work, Management & Globalisation

Note: Formerly available as 166-246/346. Students who have completed 166-246/346 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year Sociology, Political Science or related fields.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: The subject provides a critical analysis of the structure and organisation of work and of managerial practice in an era of globalisation. It focuses on major contemporary issues such as the social organisation and experience of work; managerial practices in the firm; and transformations in work-related organisations. We will investigate specific topics including social relations within the workplace; the dignity of work; power and resistance in the workplace; knowledge work; experiences of race and gender in work; the emergence of new management techniques; and the influence of globalisation and technology. The subject will equip students with the ability to assess critically global transformations in the areas of work and management, with particular emphasis on the social, political and cultural dimensions of these transformations.

166-083 Sociology of Youth & Youth Policy

Note: Formerly available as 166-250/350. Students who have completed 166-250/350 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Johanna Wyn

Prerequisites: Usually two first-year subjects in Sociology, Political Science or related fields.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject introduces major sociological approaches to youth, and explores ways different groups of young people experience and interact with the state through examining youth policy. The subject locates youth experience in changing forms of socialisation, with reference to school, work, family, gender and sexual identities. It examines ways youth is constructed as a category of policy, discussing contemporary issues such as youth homelessness, health and legal issues. It focuses on young people's responses, exploring ways young people can be understood as social actors. On completion of this subject students should have a knowledge of contemporary sociological approaches to youth; have a knowledge of contemporary youth policy, with reference to current Australian debates; and have an ability to critically evaluate areas of contemporary youth policy.

Assessment: A research essay of 1500 words 40% (due mid-semester) and a research essay of 2500 words 60% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: P Dwyer and J Wyn, *Education and Risk: Facing the Future*, Routledge/Falmer 2001. • J Wyn and R White, *Rethinking Youth*, Allen and Unwin 1997. • R White and J Wyn, *Youth and Society: Exploring the Social Dynamics of the Youth Experience*, Oxford University Press 2004.

166-085 Identities & Action: Social Movements

Note: Formerly available as 166-257/357. Students who have completed 166-257/357 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Prerequisites: Usually two first-year subjects in Sociology, Political Science or related discipline

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject explores forms of identity and action associated with contemporary social movements, the conflicts these movements are engaged in, their modes of organising and mobilising, the ways they produce meaning and transform culture. The subject explores forms of action and identity associated with emerging conflicts around globalisation, both in countries of 'North' as well as the 'South'. Sociological approaches are introduced and critically examined in relation to a series of case studies: Direct Action and globalisation conflicts; the ecology movement; animal rights; the Zapatista movement in Chiapas; the Chinese student movement; Islamic youth and women's movements. The rise and decomposition of social movements is explored, as well as their relationship to other forms of action, from subcultures to terrorism.

166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies

Note: Students intending to do fourth-year honours in Sociology must have completed this subject as part of their major.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Millsom Henry-Waring

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year subjects in Sociology, Political Science or related fields.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject introduces students to qualitative research strategies and methods. As such, it provides insights into the exciting and original contributions that social researchers can make to contemporary understandings of the worlds we inhabit. The subject examines how qualitative researchers gather and analyse data, using observation, interviews and document analysis, and then write a research report. Research strategies considered include case studies, grounded theory, ethnography and action research. This subject is based on students obtaining hands-on experience, through developing a field-based project of relevance to their interest exploring qualitative methods. On completion of this subject, students will understand the process of conducting qualitative research; have hands-on experience in using qualitative research methods; and be familiar both with theoretical approaches used in designing qualitative social research, and with key examples of qualitative research. The subject is structured to be of relevance to students in social science and humanities based disciplines, and to provide skills relevant to a wide range of areas.

Assessment: A written research proposal of 1500 words 40% (due mid-semester) and a written research paper of 2500 words 60% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be provided

K E Esterberg, *Qualitative Methods in Social Research*, McGraw-Hill 2002.

166-089 Sociology Internship

Note: Entry to this subject is by quota, with a maximum of 16 students enrolled at any one time. Students are advised to complete the Professional Skills Program offered by the Careers and Liaison Unit prior to undertaking this subject.

Availability: 3rd year

Credit points: 25

Coordinator: to be advised

Prerequisites: Students wishing to enrol in this subject must have completed 25 points of first-year Sociology subjects in addition to 166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies and 166-081 Quantitative Social Research.

Contact: Weekly seminar and work with organisation (*Semester 2*).

Description: In this subject a student, under academic supervision from the sociology program, undertakes a sociological research project in an organisation outside the university, such as a trade union, social movement, women's organisation, welfare service provider, government or non-government organisation or business organisation. The project will be determined jointly by the student and the organisation concerned.

Assessment: A written research proposal of 2000 words 25% (due early in semester) and a written research report of 6000 words 75% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Y Wadsworth, *Do it Yourself Social Research*, 2nd ed, Allen and Unwin 1997. • C Hakim, *Research Design: Strategies and Choices in the Design of Social Research*, Allen and Unwin 1987. • T Sullivan, *Applied Sociology: Research and Critical Thinking*, Macmillan 1992. • J Gubrium and D Silverman (eds), *The Politics of Field Research: Sociology Beyond Enlightenment*, Sage 1989.

166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality

Note: Formerly available as 166-266. Students who have completed 166-266 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Jui-Shan Chang

Prerequisites: Usually two first-year subjects in Sociology, Political Science or related area

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject focuses on the impact of sociocultural change on, and cultural representations of love, family and sexuality in a variety of cultural contexts and social systems. The subject also explores a range of non-normative arrangements regarding family and sexuality. Projects enable students to analyse degrees of variation regarding the systems and the meanings of love, family and sexuality that occur between norms, representations and actual daily living. Specific sociocultural comparisons should enable students to develop sociological insights and arguments using a grounded theory approach.

Assessment: A project of 1500 words 35% (due in the first half of semester), an in class test of 1000 words 30% (to be held in the second half of semester) and a final project of 1500 words 35% (due in the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

166-091 Medicine, Health and Illness

Note: Formerly available as 166-267/367. Students who have completed 166-267/367 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Tim Marjoribanks

Prerequisites: Usually two first-year subjects in Sociology, Political Science or related fields.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines how medical knowledge, practice, and technology, as well as individual and group experiences of health and illness, are socially shaped and organised. The subject begins with analyses of the medical profession, of medical education, and of medical-state relations. The subject then considers the social experience of health and illness in terms of relations including gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality and class, with specific reference to HIV/AIDS and other case studies. Attention will then be turned to technological and scientific developments in medicine, and their role in the social construction of medicine and of medical practice. Of particular interest here will be developments in organ transplantation and cloning, and the strategies of the global biomedical and biotechnology industries. Students should complete the subject with a sociological understanding of the social, political and cultural dimensions of medicine, health and illness and have gained experience in sociological research methods.

Assessment: A written response paper of 1000 words 25% (due in the first half of semester), a take-home exam of 1000 words 25% (due mid-semester), and a written essay of 2000 words 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: C Grbich, *Health in Australia*, (3rd ed) Pearson 2004.

166-210 Political Communication

See full subject details on page 7.

166-216 Terrorism: Shifting Paradigms

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Kevin McDonald

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year subjects in Sociology, Political Science or related discipline.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: Through case studies and theoretical analyses, this subject examines social processes involved in the rise, decline and transformation of different forms of terrorism, with particular reference to the student movement (Red Brigade, Weathermen); national movements (ETA, PLO); communitarian terrorism (Hezbollah, Hamas); populist terrorism (American Militias); narcoterrorism (Sendero Luminoso); sects and terrorism (Aum Shinrikyo); the shift from 'international' to global terrorism (detrterritorialized/diasporic networks - Al Qaeda). The subject explores theoretical approaches to changing paradigms of terrorism; the privatisation and detrterritorialization of violence; secrecy, the sacred and the social; forms of subjectivity evident in emerging martyrdom terrorism; violence as communication; the relationship between terrorism and religious and fundamentalist movements; the role of criminal networks and the media; the relationship between terrorism, modernity and globalization. The subject examines what, if anything, the different terrorist projects explored have in common. On completion students should have an understanding of key dimensions of contemporary terrorism, in particular as both a product of and generator of contemporary globalization.

Assessment: Analysis/presentation of primary source material of 1000 words 25% (due early in semester), a class test of 1000 words 25% (due at the end of semester) and a research essay of 2000 words 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

121-017 Society and Environments

See full subject details on page 3.

136-074 Society: Revolutions to Social Movements

See full subject details on page 2.

191-008 Sociology of Crime and Deviance

See full subject details on page 3.

Optional subjects

121-015 Development and the Third World

See full subject details on page 2.

121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality

See full subject details on page 2.

121-457 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World

See full subject details on page 4.

136-073 Critical Theories

See full subject details on page 2.

166-004 Change & Conflict in Australian Society

See full subject details on page 3.

191-003 Crime and Public Policy

See full subject details on page 2.

Third/fourth-year subjects

166-485 Contemporary Sociological Theory

Availability: 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Kevin McDonald

Prerequisites: Completion of 37.5 points of second/third-year subjects in sociology, political science or related field for third year. Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in Sociology, Political Science or related fields for fourth year.

Contact: A 1-hour lecture and a 1.5-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines major orientations and debates within contemporary sociological theory, and the different research directions that they give rise to. The subject focuses on the current shift from classical sociology, focused on national societies, roles, classes and institutions, to contemporary sociological approaches to globalisation, risk, network society and individualisation. Students should complete this subject with knowledge of approaches and debates shaping contemporary sociological theory, and an ability to use sociological theory to construct research questions.

Assessment: For 3rd-year students: an essay of 1500 words 40% (due mid-semester) and an essay of 2500 words 60% (due during the examination period). For 4th-year students: an essay of 1500 words 40% (due mid-semester) and an essay of 3500 words 60% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

191-415 Youth Crime and Society

See full subject details on page 3.

191-417 Corporate and White Collar Crime

See full subject details on page 3.

191-422 Women, Gender and Crime

See full subject details on page 4.

191-434 Victims

See full subject details on page 4.

Fourth-year subjects

166-528 Sociology Thesis

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 37.5

Coordinator: Honours coordinator

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in sociology.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor over two consecutive semesters of enrolment, as well as participation in thesis writing seminars (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: This subject constitutes a thesis of 12 000 words on an approved topic and supervised through the sociology program.

Assessment: A thesis of 12 000 words 100% (due in October for students who commenced in semester one and June for students who commenced in semester two).

Prescribed texts: C Ragin, *Constructing Social Research*, Pine Forge Press 1994.

166-410 Approaches to Political & Social Inquiry

See full subject details on page 9.

166-413 Network Society

See full subject details on page 10.

166-414 Comparative Social Policy

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 25

Coordinator: Millsom Henry-Waring

Prerequisites: Admission to the master of Social Policy, Master of Public Policy and Management or the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in Sociology.

Contact: Four hours of seminars per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject uses a comparative approach to analyse key areas of contemporary social policy, with a focus on the reform strategies that emerged over the 1990s. The subject examines the different social policy responses that have characterised these strategies, and considers ways of evaluating policy models in key areas. It engages with social policy in Australia, Europe and North America, emerging social policy in Asia, as well as with the increasing role of international organizations. The subject focuses on key policy areas, drawn from family policy, health policy, employment policy, ageing and urban policies.

Assessment: A research essay of 5000 words 50% (due mid-semester), and a research essay of 5000 words 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

166-415 Organisations, Power and Society

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 25

Coordinator: Tim Majoribanks

Prerequisites: Admission to the master of Social Policy, master of Public Policy Management or the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in Sociology, Public Policy and Management or Political Science

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: In this subject, we will undertake a critical exploration and analysis of a phenomenon central to contemporary social life and to social policy processes: the organisation. The subject engages with theoretical debates and empirical research that focus on different organisational forms, their emergence and their dynamic interaction with their institutional context. We will explore organisations comparatively, both by looking at organisations in different countries and by analysing organizations from diverse sectors, including the private, state, third and household sectors. We will also explore relationships between organisations, everyday experiences within organisations, and emerging organisational forms such as alliances and networks. Through such analyses, we will come to see organisations as contested sites of power and authority. You should complete the subject with a social science understanding of theories and empirical research of organisations, and be able to assess critically the interactions between organisations and society.

Assessment: A research essay of 5000 words 50% (due mid-semester), and a research essay of 5000 words 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

166-516 Social Policy and Social Inclusion

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 25

Coordinator: Paul Smyth

Prerequisites: Admission to the master of Social Policy one-year program or fourth-year honours in sociology.

Contact: Four hours of seminars per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: The subject engages with contemporary theories of social inclusion and capital with an emphasis on networks and their role in community strengthening, community building and regional economic development. The subject also engages in the role these strategies have in larger projects of social policy reform such as the Third Way, the Partnership movement and "joined-up" government. The subject will engage in specific social policy issues (health, housing, welfare, employment etc) as a means to investigate the use of social capital and network analysis techniques.

Assessment: An essay of 2000 words 20% (due early in semester), take home paper of 3000 words based on weekly seminar material 30% (due at end of semester) and a 5000-word project 50% (due in examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject pack will be available.

166-518 Policy Research Methods

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Jo Barraket

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or honours program in Sociology, or postgraduate coursework programs in Public Policy and Management or Social Policy.

Contact: Thirty contact hours taught intensively in blocks in March, May and late June (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject focuses on the role of research in policy and academic environments, with a general focus on empirical research. The subject explores the principles of effective research design and implementation in a range of policy settings. The unit introduces students to the variety of methodological considerations underpinning effective research design, including: ethics in policy research; developing conceptual frameworks; sampling; survey, interview and focus group design principles; analysing social and economic data; and evaluation design. The subject explores the role of research in changing policy and governance frameworks, and the theoretical underpinnings of commonly employed policy research methodologies. Students will be encouraged to think critically about the nature of intellectual authority implicit in different research approaches, and the impacts of these approaches on policy processes. On completion of the subject, students should have developed a broad conceptual understanding of the principles effective research design in a range of policy and academic settings. They should also have developed the practical skills necessary to design robust research projects appropriate to varying contexts, and the analytical skills necessary to critically evaluate others' research.

Assessment: A 1000-word essay 15% (due early April), a 1000-word journal 15% (due at the end of semester) and a 3000-word essay 70% (due in the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

166-525 Globalisation and Social Policy

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 25

Coordinator: Kevin McDonald

Prerequisites: Admission to the master of Social Policy or master of Public Policy and Management one-year program or fourth-year honours in Sociology.

Contact: Four hours of seminars per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject locates contemporary social policy and debates about its future in the context of the social, cultural and political changes associated with globalisation. The subject focuses on individualisation, the changing relationship between individual and collective, and the implications for social policy and forms of social solidarity; the changing relationship between state and society; implications of emerging forms of risk, mobility and social diversity for social policy; emerging forms of inequality and social policy; competing moral grammars and changing patterns of citizenship; the implications of increasing social complexity for social policy; the relationship between social policy and international organisations; gender, race and social policy; and different social policy responses to globalization.

Assessment: A literature review of 3000 words 30% (due mid-semester) and a research essay of 7000 words 70% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

121-503 Research Methods and Design

See full subject details on page 8.

131-471 Indigenous Politics and History

See full subject details on page 22.

136-531 Genetics in Society

See full subject details on page 10.

136-532 Reading Texts in Social Theory

See full subject details on page 3.

136-533 Theories of Modernity

See full subject details on page 3.

136-534 Imagined Societies

See full subject details on page 3.

