

**UNIT OUTLINE**

**Unit Code: SO102**

**Unit Title: Introduction to Applied Social Theories**

**Semester: S1**

**Year: 2020 Introduction to Applied Social Theories**

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| **Unit code** | SO102 | | |
| **Unit name** | Introduction to Applied Social Theories | | |
| **Associated higher education awards** | Bachelor of Applied Social Science | | |
| **Duration** | One semester | | |
| **Level** | Introductory | | |
| **Unit Coordinator** | Dr Nicky Stirling | | |
| **Core/Elective** | Core | | |
| **Weighting** | Unit credit points: 10  Course credit points: 240 | | |
| **Student workload** | *Face-to-face on site*  Contact hours  Reading, study, and preparation  Assignment preparation  TOTAL  *External*  Engagement with study materials  Assignment preparation  TOTAL | | 39 hours  59 hours  52 hours  150 hours  90 hours  60 hours  150 hours |
| Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week. | | |
| **Delivery mode** | Face-to-face on site  External | | |
| **Prerequisites/ Corequisites/ Restrictions** | Nil | | |
| **Rationale** | This unit introduces students to social theories, analytical frameworks and paradigms used to examine social phenomena. Social theory gives models and methods to explain how societies change and develop as well as to examine social behaviour. It does this by focusing on such phenomena as “power and social structure, gender and ethnicity, modernity and ‘civilisation’, revolutions and utopias” (Harrington, 2005, p. 1).  Students will begin to explore social theories to better understand society, their profession within the social sciences and their place and role in social life. They will also have opportunity to link social theories to a real life setting with an observational visit and activities. | | |
| **Prescribed text(s)** | Dillon, M. (2014). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century* (2nd ed.). London, UK: Wiley Blackwell. | | |
| **Recommended readings** | **Books**  Furze, B., Savy, P., Brym, R., & Lie, J. (2014). *Sociology in today’s world (3rd ed.).* Melbourne, VIC, Australia:  Cengage Learning.  Giddens, A., & Sutton, P. (2017). *Sociology* *(8th ed.).* Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.  Goodley, D., Hughes, B., & Davis, L. (Eds.). (2012). *Disability and social theory: New developments and directions.*  Hampshire, UK: Palgrave MacMillian.  Jones, P., Le Boutillier, S., & Bradbury, L. (2011). *Introducing social theory (2nd ed.).* Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.  Lemert, C. (Ed.). (2017). *Social theory: The multicultural, global, and classic readings (6th ed.).* Philadelphia, PA:  Westview Press.  McFarlane, I. & Hannah, M. (Eds.). (2010). *Transgressions: Critical Australian Indigenous histories.* Canberra,  Australia: ANU Press.  Schaefer, R. (2012). *Sociology: A brief introduction (10th ed.).* Dubuque, IO: McGraw-Hill.  Tweedell, C. B. (2010). *Sociology: A Christian approach for changing the world* *(2nd ed.).* Marion, IN: Triangle.  **Journals**  *The Journal of Sociology*  *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Sociology*  In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as The Holy Bible: The New International Version 2011 (NIV 2011) or The Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV).  These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at http://www.biblegateway.com. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices. | | |
| **Specialist resource requirements** | Nil | | |
| **Content** | 1. What is social theory? Viewing the world through a theoretical lens and observing theory in context 2. Classical social theory: context and beginnings, sociological imagination, Christian worldviews of social constructs 3. Karl Marx and Emile Durkheim 4. Max Weber and Georg Simmel 5. Functionalism and its critics 6. Interpretivism and interactionism 7. Historical social theory and western Marxism 8. Psychoanalytic social theory 9. Structuralism and post-structuralism 10. Structure and agency 11. Feminist social theory 12. Modernity and postmodernity 13. Globalization and the role and possibility of social transformation | | |
| **Learning outcomes** | On completion of this unit, students will have demonstrated that they have:   1. Described the broad theoretical foundations upon which social inquiry is based; 2. Understood a number of specific social theories and their impact on the applied social sciences and the social groupings, and the social inequalities they may uncover; 3. Discussed a range of important social issues in a specific applied social sciences setting, through the lens of social theory; 4. Reflected on foundational sociological theories and issues from a Christian worldview; and 5. Communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing, and presentation. | | |
| **Assessment tasks** | **Task 1:** Report  Report on one classical social theory, and outline the history, key theorists, strengths, and weaknesses of the theory. Include a Christian worldview reflection on the theory and its impact on social thought. | | |
| Word Length/Duration:  Weighting:  Learning Outcomes:  Assessed: | 1,800 words  30%  1, 2, 4, 5  Week 5 | |
| **Task 2:** Comparative Analyses  Students are required to choose a form of popular culture (from a novel, piece of music, television show or film, DVD, or YouTube™) which relates to one of the following topics: marriage and family; ethnicity; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and relations; sex and gender; or class.  Discuss the topic using two of the theoretical paradigms used in Content 5-11 of the unit: Functionalism; Interpretivism and Interactionism; Western Marxism; Psychoanalytic Social Theory; Structuralism and Post-structuralism; Structure and Agency; Feminist Social Theory. Integrate a Christian worldview into your discussions. Present this in the form of a multimedia presentation (e.g. video or YouTube™ clip) and discuss the form of popular culture and the two theoretical paradigms. | | |
| Word Length/Duration:  Weighting:  Learning Outcomes:  Assessed: | 10 minutes  25%  1-5  Week 10 | |
| **Task 3:** Observational Visit  The student will do an observational visit to an applied social sciences organisation, viewing the world through a theoretical lens. These observational visits will be organised in collaboration with the Practicum Administrator. Using activities provided by the unit coordinator and the theories presented in the unit, the student will observe the aims, activities, values, beliefs and interactions between workers and clients, and then evaluate these through the lens of one or more social theories. Examine different theoretical perspectives related to the observation and reflect on how the actions might be viewed from a Christian worldview. Six to eight academic references are required as well as a signed document from a member of the organisation. | | |
| Word Length/Duration:  Weighting:  Learning Outcomes:  Assessed: | 1,000 words  45%  1-5  Week 12 | |
| **Unit summary** | This unit introduces students to social theories, analytical frameworks, or paradigms used to examine social phenomena. Students will also have the opportunity to link the social theories to a real life setting with an observation placement and observational activities. | | |