



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

**SO102**

## **INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED SOCIAL THEORIES**

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.

<b>Unit code</b>	SO102
<b>Unit name</b>	Introduction to Applied Social Theories
<b>Associated higher education awards</b>	Diploma of Social Science Bachelor of Applied Social Science Bachelor of Counselling
<b>Duration</b>	One semester
<b>Level</b>	Introductory
<b>Core/elective</b>	Core
<b>Weighting</b>	Unit credit points: 10 Course credit points: Diploma of Social Science 80 Bachelor of Applied Social Science 240 Bachelor of Counselling 240
<b>Delivery mode</b>	Face-to-face on site External
<b>Student workload</b>	<p><i>Face-to-face on site</i></p> Contact hours 35 hours Reading, study, and preparation 55 hours Assignment preparation 60 hours <b>TOTAL 150 hours</b> <p><i>External</i></p> Engagement with study materials 90 hours Assignment preparation 60 hours <b>TOTAL 150 hours</b> <p>Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week.</p>
<b>Prerequisites/ co-requisites/ restrictions</b>	Nil
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>This unit introduces students to social theories, analytical frameworks and paradigms used to examine social phenomena. Social theory comprises 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).</p> <p>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 observation placement and activities.</p>
<b>Prescribed text(s)</b>	Dillon, M. (2014). <i>Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century</i> (2nd ed.). London, UK: Wiley Blackwell.

<p><b>Recommended readings</b></p>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <p>Furze, B., Savy, P., Brym, R., &amp; Lie, J. (2012). <i>Sociology in today's world</i> (2nd ed.). Melbourne, VIC, Australia: Cengage Learning.</p> <p>Giddens, A., &amp; Sutton, P. (2013). <i>Sociology</i> (7th ed.). Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.</p> <p>Goodley, D., Hughes, B., &amp; Davis, L. (Eds.). (2012). <i>Disability and social theory: New developments and directions</i>. Hampshire, UK: Palgrave MacMillian.</p> <p>Jones, P., Le Boutillier, S., &amp; Bradbury, L. (2011). <i>Introducing social theory</i> (2nd ed.). Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.</p> <p>Lemert, C. (Ed.). (2013). <i>Social theory: The multicultural, global, and classic readings</i> (5th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Westview Press.</p> <p>McFarlane, I. &amp; Hannah, M. (Eds.). (2010). <i>Transgressions: Critical Australian Indigenous histories</i>. Canberra, Australia: ANU Press.</p> <p>Schaefer, R. (2012). <i>Sociology: A brief introduction</i> (10th ed.). Dubuque, IO: McGraw-Hill.</p> <p>Tweedell, C. B. (2010). <i>Sociology: A Christian approach for changing the world</i> (2nd ed.). Marion, IN: Triangle.</p> <p><b>Journals</b></p> <p><i>The Journal of Sociology</i></p> <p><i>The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Sociology</i></p> <p>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).</p> <p>These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at <a href="http://www.biblegateway.com">http://www.biblegateway.com</a>. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.</p>
<p><b>Specialist resource requirements</b></p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p><b>Content</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is social theory? Viewing the world through a theoretical lens and observing theory in context</li> <li>2. Classical social theory: context and beginnings, sociological imagination, Christian worldviews of social constructs</li> <li>3. Karl Marx and Emile Durkheim</li> <li>4. Max Weber and Georg Simmel</li> <li>5. Functionalism and its critics</li> <li>6. Interpretivism and interactionism</li> <li>7. Historical social theory and western Marxism</li> <li>8. Psychoanalytic social theory</li> <li>9. Structuralism and post-structuralism</li> <li>10. Structure and agency</li> <li>11. Feminist social theory</li> <li>12. Modernity and postmodernity</li> <li>13. Globalization and the role and possibility of social transformation</li> </ol>

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>On completion of this unit, students will have demonstrated that they have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. described the broad theoretical foundations upon which social inquiry is based;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3. discussed a range of important social issues in a specific applied social sciences setting, through the lens of social theory;</li> <li>4. reflected on foundational sociological theories and issues from a Christian worldview; and</li> <li>5. communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammars, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing, and presentation.</li> </ol>
<b>Assessment tasks</b>	<p><b>Task 1: Report</b></p> <p>Report on one classical social theory, and outline the history, key theorists, strengths, and weaknesses of the theory.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 2,000 words</p> <p>Weighting: 30%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5</p> <p>Assessed: Week 5</p> <p><b>Task 2: Comparative Analysis</b></p> <p>Choose a form of popular culture which relates to one of a series of given topics, and discuss the topic, comparing and analysing two theoretical paradigms.</p> <p>Present this in the form of a digital media presentation.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 10 minutes</p> <p>Weighting: 25%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-5</p> <p>Assessed: Week 10</p> <p><b>Task 3: Placement Observation</b></p> <p>Conduct 20 hours of observations in an applied social sciences organisation (organised in collaboration with the Practicum Manager), viewing the world through a theoretical lens.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 1,000 words</p> <p>Weighting: 45%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-5</p> <p>Assessed: Week 16</p>
<b>Unit summary</b>	<p>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.</p>