

# 166-300 Contemporary Sociological Theory

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| <b>Credit Points:</b>                    | 12.500                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Level:</b>                            | Undergraduate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Dates &amp; Locations:</b>            | 2008,<br>This subject commences in the following study period/s:<br>Semester 1, - Taught on campus.<br>*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Time Commitment:</b>                  | Contact Hours: * Total Time Commitment: *                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Prerequisites:</b>                    | Usually 25 points of 1st year Sociology and 37.5 points of 2nd year Sociology, Political Science, Criminology or related fields.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Corequisites:</b>                     | *                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Recommended Background Knowledge:</b> | *                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Non Allowed Subjects:</b>             | *                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Core Participation Requirements:</b>  | *                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Coordinator:</b>                      | Dr Tim Majoribanks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Subject Overview:</b>                 | The subject examines major approaches and debates within contemporary sociological theory, and the different research directions that emerge from these approaches. Beginning with an overview of the classical foundations of sociological theory, the subject explores contemporary sociological theories which engage with questions of power, social order, and conflict. The subject also examines contemporary sociological approaches to critical issues including globalization, individualization, and identity. As the subject proceeds, we will examine how researchers construct, evaluate and modify theory to respond to transformations in social relations and practices. In this way, it will become evident that sociological theory is in a constant process of interaction with everyday social structures, relations and experiences. Students will complete the subject with knowledge of key approaches and debates in contemporary sociological theory, and with the capacity to use sociological theory to construct social research questions. |
| <b>Assessment:</b>                       | A written essay of 1000 words 25% (due in first half of semester), a take home test of 1000 words 25% (due mid-semester), and a written essay of 2000 words 50% (due during the examination period)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Prescribed Texts:</b>                 | Prescribed Texts:A subject reader will be available.Contested Knowledge. Social Theory Today (Steven Seidman), Blackwell, 2004, 3rd edn                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Breadth Options:</b>                  | This subject is not available as a breadth subject.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Fees Information:</b>                 | Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, <a href="http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees">http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Generic Skills:</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># be able to apply research skills and critical methods to a field of inquiry;</li> <li># be able to develop persuasive arguments on a given topic;</li> <li># be able to communicate oral and written arguments and ideas effectively and articulately.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Notes:</b>                            | This is a compulsory capstone subject required for the completion of a Sociology major.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Related Course(s):</b>                | Diploma in Arts (Sociology)<br>Graduate Certificate in Arts (Sociology)<br>Graduate Diploma in Arts (Sociology)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |