## Subject Overview

Contemporary societies are characterized by social differences and inequalities. Many differences are linked to social categories such as social class, gender, ethnicity, age, religion and disability. They indicate not only different life style decisions but fundamental inequalities of life chances and are responsible for systematic inequalities in income, health and life expectancy. Many of these inequalities are seen as unjust even though they continue and sometimes even increase. This subject will give a comprehensive overview about central social inequalities on a national and international level. It will discuss major sociological approaches to understand the existence and reproduction of these inequalities and how the understanding and theorizing of social inequalities has changed in recent decades.

## Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this subject students should:

- Demonstrate a sociological understanding of contemporary social inequalities such as class, gender, and ethnicity;
- Have a good understanding of the different dimensions involved in social inequalities;
- Demonstrate an ability to apply sociological theories, concepts and evidence to the analyse sources of social inequalities and how they are reproduced;
- Be able to communicate sociological analyses of inequality using both oral and written formats.

## Assessment:

A research essay of 2,000 words (50%) due mid-semester. A research essay of 2,000 words (50%) due during the examination period. Hurdle requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 75% of tutorials in order to pass this subject. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject. Regular participation in tutorials is required. Note: Assessment submitted late
without an approved extension will be penalised at 10% per working day. In-class tasks missed without approval will not be marked.

**Prescribed Texts:**
Reading material will be available online via the subject LMS site at the beginning of the semester.

**Breadth Options:**
This subject potentially can be taken as a breadth subject component for the following courses:
- Bachelor of Biomedicine (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2016/B-BMED)
- Bachelor of Science (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2016/B-SCI)

You should visit learn more about breadth subjects (http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html) and read the breadth requirements for your degree, and should discuss your choice with your student adviser, before deciding on your subjects.

**Fees Information:**
Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees

**Notes:**
This subject is available as Breadth to non-Bachelor of Arts students

**Related Majors/Minors/ Specialisations:**
- Graduate Certificate in Arts - Politics and International Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Arts - Sociology
- Graduate Diploma in Arts - Sociology
- Political Science Major
- Politics and International Studies
- Sociology