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.
Unit Name: Australian Society: Introduction to Sociology

Unit Code: SO101

Award: Diploma of Social Science
Bachelor of Social Science
Bachelor of Social Science (Counselling)

Credit Points: 10

Core/Elective: Core

Pre/co-requisites: Nil

Modes: Internal
External

Delivery/Contact hrs:

Internal
- Lectures and Tutorials: 39 hours
- Reading, study and preparation for lectures: 39 hours
- Assignment preparation: 52 hours
- TOTAL: 130 hours

External
- Engagement with study materials: 78 hours
- Assignment preparation: 52 hours
- TOTAL: 130 hours

Teaching Staff: Catherine McIntyre

Unit Rationale:
Unprecedented change and rapid transformation are indicative features of contemporary Australian society. Australia’s sociological and cultural landscape has been entirely reshaped since the 1950’s and the institutional and sociological evidences of this transformation are clearly evident at every level within Australian society. Students who plan to work effectively in the people-helping professions need to understand these changes and develop the ability to investigate, analyse and reflect upon contemporary Australian society through the lens of a range of sociological theories, methods, ideas and perspectives, including that of a distinctively Christian worldview.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this unit of study, students will have provided evidence that they have:

1. Described the broad philosophical foundations upon which social inquiry is based, and the significance of social science research methods and data analysis;
2. Identified the various bases of social power and authority;
3. Understood the use of ascribed attributes to delineate social groupings, and the social inequalities that may result;
4. Discussed a range of important social issues in contemporary Australian society, including conformity, sexual behaviour, poverty and income distribution, multiculturalism and education;
5. Reflected on foundational sociological theories and concepts from a distinctively Christian perspective;
6. Written at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation.
Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Defining the field of sociology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Defining the field of sociology II</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Describing key sociological theories, theorists and perspectives</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Macro theories – the ‘Big Picture’</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Micro theories</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The ‘Eclectic remixes’</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Developing the key sociological theme of culture I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Developing the key sociological theme of culture II</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Developing sociological themes and perspectives I – Australian identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Developing sociological themes and perspectives II – Australian society</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Developing sociological themes and perspectives III – Australian society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Discovering sociological answers to society’s problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Demonstrating a Christian “sociological imagination”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Set Text Requirements:


Recommended Readings:


Journals

The Journal of Sociology

The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Sociology
### Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Topic/s</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Week Due</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Mini-Papers</td>
<td>In a small group (ideal size 4), decide on four topics discussed in the unit on which to work. Discuss and reflect on professional and personal learning relating to the four different topics. At the outset, each student will write an individual journal on each topic discussed. Following this, a group mini-paper will be produced on each topic (400 words each). Although not directly assessed, students are required to append their individual journals to the mini-papers.</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Journals 1-2: Week 6</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Journals 3-4: Week 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Research Report</td>
<td>Identify an important issue within a community to which you belong, discuss this topic in light of current research, evaluate it using at least two major sociological theories covered in this unit and suggest sociologically appropriate strategies with which it might be addressed.</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500 words</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Write an essay on one of several topics related to contemporary Australian society to be given by the lecturer. Examine different sociological perspectives related to the topic, and reflect on how it might be viewed from a Christian perspective.</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>40%</td>
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