



Introduction

Welcome

Social theory for the 21st century (SOCU 3036) is a course that invites you to explore some of the central theoretical debates within contemporary sociology. The course seeks to expand your understanding of how prominent social theories can be used to illuminate various facets of social life. The course also aims to develop your capacity to summarize and critically analyze sociological arguments, and it is designed to expand your ability to make a well-reasoned and sourced sociological claim in written form.

The course begins by covering one of the long-standing themes of sociological theory, modernity. After reviewing some of the classical ways modernity has been theorized, the course then shifts its focus to other key strands of sociological thought, which have pushed the field in new and exciting directions.

To succeed in this course, you are encouraged to watch/listen to all of the online lecture content and complete all of the assigned readings and the online (non-assessed) activities.

In addition to the online activities and lectures, your online tutor will run short 30 minute Zoom sessions, which will be offered every week, starting from week 1. These sessions give you another opportunity to discuss the assignments and the course material. Details of these Zoom sessions can be found in the weekly content sections below.

Please make sure that you submit your assignments by each of the specified deadlines. Should extra time be needed, please lodge a extension request through the learnonline course website before -- and not after -- the due date. You may receive a zero mark if you try to submit your assignment after the due date without an approved extension. All extensions should be submitted to your online tutor, Tim Coventry (timothy.coventry@unisa.edu.au).

Having a thorough read through of this course outline is essential. This document describes course policies and expectations, forms of assessment, and other important course details.

The course has an [open and respectful communication policy](#). Should you ever have any queries or concerns, please contact the course coordinator, Dr Louis Everuss (louis.everuss@unisa.edu.au). Please note that the course will at times cover topics that you may find disturbing. If you suspect that an aspect of the course will be emotionally challenging for you, please contact the course coordinator for assistance. Please also notify the course coordinator if you have an access plan, so that an attempt can be made to accommodate your circumstances.

All students are encouraged to regularly monitor their university e-mail accounts and the Learnonline course website for various updates and announcements about the course.

Academic Work Definitions

External mode includes online, distance education, industry placement or directed research. Virtual classrooms are deemed to be an external mode of delivery. External mode does not normally include a face to face component, however some courses offered in external mode may require a small component of on-campus activity, or practical sessions.

The expectations of your activity and preparation for each course will be aligned to the activity being undertaken. For example, if you are studying externally and there are virtual lectures, your preparation would be as listed under the lecture section of this guide.

You may also be supported through online facilitation, with preparation required, and other learning activities provided in your course, that will each have specific preparation requirements for you. These requirements should be set out in individual course guides.

Peer Interaction is usually included in UniSA courses in both external and internal modes of delivery and is considered a critical element of the learning process that may involve activities, projects, discussion forums, presentations, practicals, workshops.

Lecture

Student information

A lecture is delivery of course content either in person, or online in a virtual classroom, that builds on the course readings and pre-lecture requirements for you and other students in the course. The primary purpose of the lecture is to comprehensively describe and explain course content, ideas or skills to provide a foundation on which students build understanding through extended study. Lectures may also be pre-recorded and embedded in online courses.

All students are expected to have undertaken required readings and assigned activities prior to the lecture.

Online facilitation

Student information

Online courses generally require students to independently read, view and/or work through all required materials, including pre-recorded presentations that have been produced and provided to facilitate this form of learning.

Independent online learning is supported by Online Facilitators who supplement online teaching resources by facilitating, monitoring and moderating online forums; answering student queries via virtual office hours or help desks, online dialogue and/or phone conversations, providing formative feedback on your work or explaining comments and marking of your prior work.

Students are expected to be familiar with all relevant course content, including materials provided and assessments, and engage appropriately with facilitators within the timeframes provided.

Course Teaching Staff

Online Course Facilitator:	Mr Tim Coventry
Location:	University of South Australia Online
Location:	UniSA Justice & Society
Email:	Timothy.Coventry@unisa.edu.au
Staff Home Page:	people.unisa.edu.au/Timothy.Coventry
Course Coordinator:	Dr Louis Everuss

Location: UniSA Justice & Society
B1-10

Telephone: +61 8 8302 2949

Email: Louis.Everuss@unisa.edu.au

Staff Home Page: people.unisa.edu.au/Louis.Everuss

* Please refer to your Course homepage for the most up to date list of course teaching staff.

Contact Details

UniSA Justice & Society

Physical Address: Level 2, Amy Wheaton Building
UniSA Magill Campus
Magill 5072

Website: <https://www.unisa.edu.au/about-unisa/academic-units/justice-and-society/>

Course Overview

Prerequisite(s)

Individual Compulsory Courses

SOCU 1003 The Social World
SOCU 1002 Sociological Perspectives

Prerequisite Comments

Students may use either of the listed courses as a prerequisite

Corequisite(s)

There are no corequisite courses to be completed in conjunction with this course.

Course Objectives

On completion of this course, students should be able to:

- CO1. demonstrate an advanced and critical understanding of the key contested issues in sociology
- CO2. show evidence of key contemporary theorists and theories who contribute to current debates
- CO3. demonstrate a critical understanding of the key conceptual issues within the discipline
- CO4. critically analyse emerging issues in the discipline which reflect social and global developments

Upon completion of this course, students will have achieved the following combination of Graduate Qualities and Course Objectives:

	Graduate Qualities being assessed through the course						
	GQ1	GQ2	GQ3	GQ4	GQ5	GQ6	GQ7
CO1	•					•	
CO2			•	•			
CO3		•			•		
CO4							•

Graduate Qualities

A graduate of UniSA:

- GQ1. operates effectively with and upon a body of knowledge of sufficient depth to begin professional practice
- GQ2. is prepared for life-long learning in pursuit of personal development and excellence in professional practice
- GQ3. is an effective problem solver, capable of applying logical, critical, and creative thinking to a range of problems
- GQ4. can work both autonomously and collaboratively as a professional
- GQ5. is committed to ethical action and social responsibility as a professional and citizen
- GQ6. communicates effectively in professional practice and as a member of the community
- GQ7. demonstrates international perspectives as a professional and as a citizen

Course Content

Students will explore some of the central theoretical debates within contemporary sociology. The course first considers the ways in which classical sociological perspectives continue to find relevance in the contemporary era. The course then covers key strands of sociological inquiry which have recently emerged. Students will examine the innovative theories that sociologists have used to better understand how the contemporary social world operates.

Teaching and Learning Arrangements

Lecture (Online)	1 hour x 10 weeks
Tutorial (Online)	2 hours x 10 weeks
Lecture (online)	1 hour x 2 weeks

Unit Value

4.5 units

Student recording of learning activities

Students must seek permission prior to recording any UniSA learning activity. See [A-56 Policy Student recording of learning activities](https://i.unisa.edu.au/siteassets/policies-and-procedures/docs/academic/a56_student-recording-of-learning-activities.pdf) (https://i.unisa.edu.au/siteassets/policies-and-procedures/docs/academic/a56_student-recording-of-learning-activities.pdf)

Breaches of this Policy contravene the principles of academic integrity, and attract the penalties provided in the [Academic Integrity Procedure](https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/) (<https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/>).

Learning Resources

Textbook(s)

There are no textbooks listed for this course.

learnonline course site

All course related materials are available on your learnonline course site which you will be able to access from the 'my Current Studies' section in myUniSA (<https://my.unisa.edu.au>).

Access to Previous Courses

You will have access to your previous course sites for a period of 4 years. After this time, the course sites will be archived and will be unavailable.

Note: Course readings provided via the University Library are only made available to current students and staff due to licensing and copyright restrictions. Students may download their course readings while they are enrolled in the course for their personal research purposes only.

Assessment

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the reputation of UniSA and its staff and students. Academic integrity means all staff and students are committed to producing academic work that accurately reflects authorship, and is created with honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

The University of South Australia expects students to demonstrate accurately what they have learned so that university qualifications are earned honestly and are trusted and valued by its students and their employers. That means students need to present work that represents what they have learned. Therefore, students must indicate where and how they have used other people's ideas to support their knowledge. Academic integrity requires an honest account of the source of contributions to the work by using correct referencing. Students must not represent the work of others as their own as this does not demonstrate what they have learned. Using another person's work without correct referencing is considered Academic Misconduct.

The approach to academic integrity has many layers.

At the government level, a law exists that specifically states that providing academic cheating services to students of Australian universities is an **offence**, irrespective of whether the service is provided by an Australian or overseas operator (see Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Amendment (Prohibiting Academic Cheating Services) Bill 2019 - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00078>). "Academic cheating services" includes providing or undertaking work for students, where that work forms a substantial part of an assessment task.

The University has policies and procedures to promote academic integrity and manage academic misconduct. More information about academic integrity and what constitutes academic misconduct can be found in the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure (<https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/>). One example is that work submitted electronically by students for assessment will be examined for copied and un-referenced text using the text comparison software Turnitin <http://www.turnitin.com>.

At the course level, your instructor may also provide specific instruction and guidance on whether the use of tools such as translation software, writing aides, and artificial intelligence software is permissible and to what degree in completing learning tasks and assessments. When in doubt, ask your teaching team.

To learn more about academic integrity and how to avoid academic misconduct, please refer to the Academic Integrity Module: <https://lo.unisa.edu.au/mod/book/view.php?id=252142>

Use of generative artificial intelligence

The assessment tasks for this course require you to demonstrate your learning.

It is important to understand that information generated by GenAI tools, such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and DALL-E, may be unreliable, inaccurate, and incorrect. It is your responsibility to comply with the conditions for each assessment task summarised in the assessment description and that any use of GenAI tools is ethical and responsible and adheres to the assessment conditions.

Use of GenAI tools that extends beyond the stated assessment conditions will be considered a breach of academic conduct, as per the [Academic Integrity Policy \(AB-69\)](#).

Important information about all assessment

All students must adhere to the University of South Australia's [procedures about assessment](http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/): <http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/>.

Assessment Details

Details of assessment submission and return are listed under each assessment task. Assessment tasks will be returned to you within 15 working days of submission.

Cover sheets

A cover sheet is not required for assessment tasks submitted via learnonline, as the system automatically generates one.

If the Course Coordinator allows submissions in hard copy format, you will be required to attach an Assignment Cover Sheet which is available on the learnonline student help (https://asklearnonline.unisa.edu.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/2222/kw/coversheet) and in myUniSA.

Assessment Descriptions

Assessment 1

Single		25% of Course Total			Objectives being assessed:CO1, CO3		
Title	Team work	Length	Duration	Due date (Adelaide Time)	Submit via	Re-Submission	Re-Marking
Article Analysis	No	1100 words	N/A	20 Mar 2024, 11:59 PM	learnonline	Yes	Yes

Further information on re-marking and re-submission is available in the academic policy, AB-68 P4 Re-marking and Re-submission Procedure

Tutorial work for this course consists of one assignment. This assignment tests your ability to summarize and critically analyse a sociological article that engages in social theorizing.

You must select from one of the two articles listed below to critically analyse.

- Hobbs, M., Owen, S., & Gerber, L. (2017). Liquid love? Dating apps, sex, relationships and the digital transformation of intimacy, *Journal of Sociology*, 53(2), 271-281. [Link to article](#)
- Laudan, R. (2001). A plea for culinary modernism: why we should love new, fast, processed food, *Gastronomica*, 1(1), 36-44. [Link to article](#)

The article analysis assignment asks you to write a short critical essay predominantly in your own words that clearly summarizes the purpose and significance of your selected article. This will involve identifying the central and secondary points the article is advancing in a clear and concise fashion, using accepted referencing techniques. This essay will also involve critical reflection. You will be expected to critique the argument or arguments presented. There is a word limit/target of 1,100 words. Submissions of the assignment will only be accepted through the learnonline system in Microsoft Word document format, unless otherwise negotiated.

Re-submission is available for this assessment as per APPM 5.2, Re-marking is available for this assessment as per APPM 5.1.

All extension requests should be submitted to your online tutor: Timothy Coventry.

Assessment 2

Single		25% of Course Total			Objectives being assessed:CO2, CO4		
Title	Team work	Length	Duration	Due date (Adelaide Time)	Submit via	Re-Submission	Re-Marking
Minor Essay	No	1100 words	N/A	28 Apr 2024, 11:59 PM	learnonline	Yes	Yes

Further information on re-marking and re-submission is available in the academic policy, AB-68 P4 Re-marking and Re-submission Procedure

The goal of this minor essay assignment is to demonstrate your understanding of how classical modernity can be theorized. You must choose from one of the essay prompts below and write an essay that directly responds to the prompt you have selected.

You are asked in this assignment to principally explain and engage with a particular social theorist's ideas. This means not only providing a summation of what they are saying but also evaluating what is compelling or weak about their arguments.

To meet the requirements of the assignment, you are expected to:

- Put forward a strong and relevant central argument, which responds appropriately to the essay prompt you have chosen to write on,
- Engage with and reference at least three academic sources, which directly pertain to the subject matter you are writing on. One of these texts must come from the required readings list (which can be found on the learnonline website). (Note: Wikipedia, non-scholarly online sources, or textbooks should not be used for this assignment);
- Critically engage with the authors you are looking at by identifying their strengths and weaknesses;
- Be expositive in your writing by providing illustrative examples, where necessary;
- Have an introduction that sets out what you will argue in a clear and concise fashion;
- Have a conclusion that does more than merely sum up your arguments;
- Number all of your pages;
- Stay within 10% of the 1,100 word target;
- Give a title to your essay that succinctly describes what your essay is about, which does not simply repeat the text of the essay prompt;
- Follow the APA referencing style (<https://lo.unisa.edu.au/course/view.php?id=3839§ionid=555859>) in your in-text citations and in the reference list you include at the end of your essay;
- Submit the assignment via the learnonline course website in Microsoft Word format (unless otherwise negotiated); &

Essay prompts:

- Do you agree with Marx's assertion that capitalism causes work to generally lose its value and meaning?
- For Weber, what are the origins and motivating elements of modern capitalism? How does his explanation differ from other prominent accounts?
- How does Durkheim understand the difference between pre-modern and modern societies? What unique problems do modern societies face?
- To what extent do you agree with the claim that postmodernity has superseded modernity?

Re-submission is available for this assessment as per APPM 5.2, Re-marking is available for this assessment as per APPM 5.1

All extension requests should be submitted to your online tutor: Timothy Coventry.

Assessment 3

Single		50% of Course Total			Objectives being assessed:CO1, CO3		
Title	Team work	Length	Duration	Due date (Adelaide Time)	Submit via	Re-Submission	Re-Marking
Major Essay	No	2300 words	N/A	19 Jun 2024, 11:59 PM	learnonline	Yes	No

Further information on re-marking and re-submission is available in the academic policy, AB-68 P4 Re-marking and Re-submission Procedure

The major essay assignment is designed to test your ability to understand, accurately recount, and critically evaluate a key strand of contemporary social theory.

To complete this assignment, you need select one of the areas of study that was covered in the second half of the course (between weeks 7 and 11) to write about. These include:

- The sociology of time;
- The theory of risk society;
- Science and technology studies;
- The concept of the Anthropocene; &
- How societies produce outsiders.

Focus on one point of debate within one of the aforementioned areas of study and explain and critically appraise how that debate has unfolded. (For example, you might decide to write about how different theories of social acceleration have been put forward and contested. Or you might choose to write about the merits and challenges of deploying the concept of the Anthropocene in sociology.)

To satisfy the requirements for this essay, you are expected to:

- Put forward a clearly articulated central argument that directly relates to an area of study covered in the second half of the course (between weeks 7 and 11);
- Give a title to your essay that does not simply repeat the area of study you've selected to write on;
- Critically engage with the authors you are looking at by identifying their strengths and weaknesses;
- Be expositive in your writing by providing illustrative examples, where necessary;
- Have an introduction that sets out what you will argue in a clear and concise fashion;
- Have a conclusion that does more than merely sum up your arguments;
- Engage with and reference at least ten academic sources, which directly pertain to the subject matter you are writing on. One of these texts must come from the required readings list (which can be found on the learnonline website). (Note: Wikipedia, non-scholarly online sources, or textbooks should not be used for this assignment);
- Structure your essay in a logical and coherent manner, using subheadings as needed;
- Stay within 10% of the 2,300 word limit/target;
- Follow the APA referencing style (<https://lo.unisa.edu.au/course/view.php?id=3839§ionid=555859>) in your in-text citations and in the reference list you include at the end of your essay.
- Submit your assignment via the learnonline course website in Microsoft Word format (unless otherwise negotiated); &
- Number all pages of your essay.

Re-submission is not available for this assessment as per APPM 5.2, Re-marking is available for this assessment as per APPM 5

All extension requests should be submitted to your online tutor: Timothy Coventry.

Feedback proformas

The feedback proforma is available on your course site.

Additional assessment requirements

There are no additional assessment requirements identified for this course.

Penalties for late submission

The course coordinator reserves the right to not to accept any late assignment submissions without a pre-approved extension. This means if you are unable to submit your assignment in on time without a pre-approved extension, you may receive a '0' score. Please contact your assigned instructor if you have any questions about this policy.

Exam Arrangements

This course does not have an exam

Deferred Assessment or Examination

Deferred assessment or examination is available for this course.

Supplementary Assessment

Supplementary assessment or examination offers students an opportunity to gain a supplementary pass (SP) and is available to all students under specific conditions unless supplementary assessment or examination has not been approved for the course.

Specific conditions and further information is available in the [Variations to Assessment Procedure](http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/). <http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/>

Supplementary assessment or examination offers students an opportunity to gain a supplementary pass (SP) and is available to all students under the following conditions unless supplementary assessment or examination has not been approved for the course:

if the student has achieved a final grade between 45-49 per cent (F1) in a course or if a student who has successfully completed all of the courses within their program, with the exception of two courses in their final study period, a supplementary assessment or examination may be granted where the final grade in either or both of these courses, is less than 45 percent (F1 or F2) and all assessments in the courses were attempted by the student.

More information about supplementary assessment is available in section 7.5 of the Assessment Policy and Procedures Manual.
<http://w3.unisa.edu.au/policies/manual/default.asp>

Special Consideration

Variations to assessment tasks

Details for which variation may be considered are discussed in the [Variations to Assessments Procedure](http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/) (<http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/>). Variation to assessment in unexpected or exceptional circumstances should be discussed with your course coordinator as soon as possible.

More information about variation to assessment is available in the [Variations to Assessments Procedure](http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/) (<http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/>).

Students with disabilities or medical conditions please refer to **Students with disabilities or medical conditions**.

Students with disabilities or medical conditions

Students with disabilities or medical conditions or students who are carers of a person with a disability may be entitled to a variation or modification to standard assessment arrangements. See the [Variations to Assessment Procedure](http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/) at: <http://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/assessment-policies/> and Policy C7 [Students with Disability](https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/corporate/c-7/) at: <https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/corporate/c-7/>

Students who require variations or modifications to standard assessment arrangements must first register for an Access Plan with the UniSA Access & Inclusion Service. It is important to contact the Access & Inclusion service early to ensure that appropriate support can be implemented or arranged in a timely manner.

Students who wish to apply for an Access Plan must book an appointment with a UniSA Access & Inclusion Advisor by contacting Campus Central or via the Online Booking System in the Student Portal. For more information about Access Plans please visit: <https://i.unisa.edu.au/students/student-support-services/access-inclusion/>

Once an Access Plan has been approved, students must advise their Course Coordinator as early as possible to ensure that appropriate supports can be implemented or arranged in a timely manner.

Students are advised there are also strict deadlines to finalise Access Plan arrangements prior to examinations. Further information is available at: http://i.unisa.edu.au/campus-central/Exams_R/Before-the-Exam/Alternative-exam-arrangements/

Action from previous evaluations

Elements of the course have been revised in line with student feedback, since it was last taught the year before. Constructive feedback is always welcome.

Unplanned learnonline outages

The information below shows the suggested alterations/considerations for assessment items and exam dependent on the duration of the unplanned outage

Less than 1 hour outage. No impact on either assessment or examination

1 to 4 hour outage. Assessment - Consider an extension.

4 to 24 hour outage. Assessment - 24 hour extension.

Over 24 hour outage. Assessment - 48 hour extension.

Course Calendar

Study Period 2 - 2024

Weeks	Topic	Assessment Details (Adelaide Time)	Comments	Public Holidays
12 - 18 February	Pre-teaching			
19 - 25 February	Pre-teaching			
1 26 February - 3 March	Sociological theory and modernity			
2 04 - 10 March	Karl Marx's theory of work			
3 11 - 17 March	Max Weber and the spirit of capitalism			Adelaide Cup Day 11/03/2024
4 18 - 24 March	Emile Durkheim and the problem of social solidarity	Article Analysis due 20 Mar 2024, 11:59 PM		
5 25 - 31 March	Understanding the postmodern condition			Good Friday 29/03/2024
6 01 - 7 April	How to write a sociology essay (Recap)		<i>Review Week - No Zoom Session or Online Activities</i>	Easter Monday 1/04/2024
08 - 14 April	Mid-break			
15 - 21 April	Mid-break			
7 22 - 28 April	Social acceleration in question	Minor Essay due 28 Apr 2024, 11:59 PM		Anzac Day 25/04/2024
8 29 April - 5 May	Living in a risk society			
9 06 - 12 May	The challenge of the Anthropocene			
10 13 - 19 May	Science and technology studies			
11 20 - 26 May	How societies produce outsiders			
12 27 May - 2 June	N/A			
13 03 - 9 June	N/A			
10 - 16 June	Swot-vac			King's Birthday 10/06/2024
17 - 23 June	Exam week	Major Essay due 19 Jun 2024, 11:59 PM		

24 - 30 June

Exam week