

HUMN 1007 BRAVE NEW WORLD: NEGOTIATING SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 101886

Coordinator Lucy Nicholas (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Lucy.Nicholas/>)

Description The discipline of Sociology has witnessed a transformation reflecting significant changes in society and social life. This subject re-examines the sociological dimensions of a variety of social concerns, for example: environmental issues, global migration, health, religion, indigeneity, gender, ethnic conflict and sub-cultural groups and asks: In the 'brave new world' of contemporary society we need to re-evaluate the conventional sociological concern of social structure and inequality in the face of these broad social changes. This subject will examine the social transformations which characterise contemporary social life; in particular the pace of social change and the implications of social media. In exploring these social concerns the links are drawn between more recent theoretical constructs and the more traditional focus on national social structures and inequalities. The subject will place special emphasis on concepts such as risk, individualism and uncertainty.

School Social Sciences

Discipline Sociology

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 1 subject

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of recent developments in sociological thought and the reasons behind them
2. Apply recent sociological perspectives to some of the key social problems and/or challenges presented globally and within contemporary Australian life
3. Demonstrate a reflexive stance on the various sociological perspectives presented
4. Analyse some specific examples of how global processes of change can impact people's everyday lives in local contexts
5. Discuss, through a sociological lens, various possible, probable and preferred social futures with reference to current social trends

Subject Content

1. The End of History: Progress, Choice and Equality?
2. Generation and the continuation of tradition
3. Globalisation: the 'Western' perspective
4. Colonialism and neocolonialism
5. Decolonization and its contemporary legacies
6. Social Change
7. Social movements

8. Feminism, sexuality, and intersectionality
9. Social change and backlash
10. Technology, globalisation, connectedness, and change
11. The dark side of technology
12. How can we make social change?

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Critical Review	500 words	30	N	Individual	N
Essay	1500 words	40	N	Individual	N
Final Exam	2 x 500 word essays	30	N	Individual	N

Prescribed Texts

- Not Applicable

Teaching Periods

Spring (2025)

Penrith (Kingswood)

On-site

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1007_25-SPR_KW_1#subjects)

Liverpool

On-site

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1007_25-SPR_LP_1#subjects)

Summer (2025)

Online

Online

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1007_25-SUM_ON_2#subjects)