



School of Humanities and Social Science

Sociology and Anthropology

A guide for students taking SOCA courses

Sociology and Anthropology (SOCA) study social and cultural issues to do with gender, the family, class and social status, children and young people, religion and ritual, culture and identity, globalisation, economic and political systems, ethnicity, migration and refugees, poverty and development, symbolism in human cultures as well as popular media. They also look at the way a range of topics can be understood better by looking at the social context – for example – how particular living conditions, policies and practices affect public health or the wider environment.

Sociology is the study of contemporary social issues, social institutions, and social relationships – to understand social order and social change. **Anthropology** is the study of contemporary cultures and social groups from a comparative perspective, ranging from Indigenous peoples, to rural communities, and urban societies throughout the world, with a focus on fieldwork studies to understand people's way of life.

Why study Sociology and Anthropology?



If you're interested in working with people and communities, then Sociology and Anthropology are for you. Sociology and Anthropology provide us with fascinating insights into how societies work and how their organisation impacts on our daily lives. It also provides us with a way to understand the transformation of different societies and cultures from a cross-cultural and global perspective.

Students who study Sociology and Anthropology develop skills and knowledge applicable to a wide variety of jobs, including:

- Understanding the major social and cultural issues in Australia and internationally
- High-quality written and oral communication skills
- Research skills and a capacity for detailed observation
- The ability to work independently and in groups.

For further information, see the SOCA Careers site

(<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/careers/careerassistance/major/soca.html>).

Thematic strands in Sociology and Anthropology

If you are puzzled by the variety of courses on different topics in Sociology and Anthropology it may be a good idea to think of these courses as falling into three main thematic strands:

- 1. Urban | Youth | Deviance | Media**
- 2. Health | Environment | Embodiment | Development**
- 3. Anthropology | Religion | Myth | Violence and Social Order**

These are nominated as strands because there is an overlap in theories and methods of investigation between courses in the same strand. Below are examples of courses in each strand.

Urban | Youth | Deviance | Media

- SOCA1040 Sociology of Children and Families
- SOCA3081 Media and Society
- SOCA3220 Youth Culture and Risk
- SOCA3230 Identity and Culture
- SOCA3360 Control and Resistance in Modern Cities

Health | Environment | Embodiment | Development

- SOCA1200 Health Sociology 1
- SOCA3350 Sociology of Food
- SOCA3060 Environment and Society
- SOCA3178 Health, Illness and Society
- SOCA3800 Citizenship and Globalisation



Anthropology | Religion | Myth | Violence and Social Order

- SOCA1020 Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology
- SOCA3169 Death, Dying and Human Mortality
- SOCA3240 Violence and Social Order
- SOCA3850 Indigenous Peoples of the Contemporary World
- SOCA3902 Religion and Politics in Contemporary Society

These or any other SOCA course can be included in your Major sequence. SOCS coded courses can also be counted in a SOCA Major if you are in the Bachelor of Arts.

Honours in Sociology and Anthropology

Honours study adds value to your base degree by completing a 4th year of research-oriented study that is viewed by employers as signalling your capacity to conduct high quality social research and analysis. It enhances your competitive advantage for employment by allowing you to specialise in particular skills and knowledge. For those who do well, the possibility exists to proceed to doctoral (PhD) study.

The SOCA Honours program is offered at both Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses, and is available full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years). It consists of 4 courses: **SOCA4090, SOCA4100, SOCA4110 and SOCA4120**. These courses comprise two strands:

1. **Prescribed coursework** (SOCA4090 & SOCA4100):
 - a. Worth 25% of the final grade.
 - b. Class contact of 2 hours per week for one semester.
2. **A 15 000 - 20 000 word thesis** (SOCA4110 & SOCA4120):
 - a. Worth 75% of the final grade.
 - b. Individual supervision equivalent to 1 hour/week for 1 semester



Further information

For detailed descriptions of our courses, go to the Program finder on the University website and search for the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Social Science program, then scroll down to the Sociology and Anthropology Major. Click on any of the SOCA or SOCS coded courses to get a full description. For any further queries contact the Discipline convenor:

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