



School of Humanities and Social Science

Sociology and Anthropology

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/>

Sociology and Anthropology 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.

These skills and knowledge enable students to undertake:

- **Work involving social groups and social processes:** such as minority and ethnic groups, crime and substance abuse, youth issues, family matters, industrial relations, poverty alleviation, globalisation.
- **Social research:** devising surveys, collecting data, and conducting interviews and fieldwork; including the analysis, interpretation and presentation of the information collected.
- **Work in communities** to gather and analyse information on socio-cultural behaviour.
- **Social policy and planning:** community development, cultural resource management, social justice issues, social aspects of health care, migration.
- **Work with international development agencies** and local community organisations, government and non-government.

Sociologists and Anthropologists find employment in government agencies, community organisations and private firms.

Where do Sociology and Anthropology fit in the degree programs offered at the University of Newcastle?



Sociology and Anthropology can be taken as a Major sequence of courses in the:

- **Bachelor of Arts (BA), and the**
- **Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSci).**

A Major consists of 80 units, one third of a 240 unit BA or BSocSci degree program. It provides students with an opportunity to study an area of interest or skill in depth. To enrol in a Sociology and

Anthropology major it is recommended that students study:

- 20 units of Sociology & Anthropology courses in their first year of study (1000 level)
- 60 units of upper level courses in their second and third year of study (3000 level).

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Students have to complete two Major sequences for their degree. The Sociology and Anthropology Major can be made up of SOCA and SOCS coded courses.

Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSci)

Students complete 80 units of a compulsory social science sequence (SOCS coded courses), in addition to completing 80 units of a Sociology and Anthropology Major (SOCA coded courses).

Sociology and Anthropology elective courses

If you are enrolled in another program and think a Sociology or Anthropology course may be useful or interesting, you may enrol in it as an elective. You do not have to be doing a major in Sociology and Anthropology to enrol in a particular course.

Students enrolled in other programs offered by the University – such as Development Studies, Education, Geography, Nursing, Nutrition and Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Social Work – also take SOCA courses as part of their degree program.

Further information

If you have any questions about Sociology and Anthropology, do not hesitate to ask the administrative staff at one of the Student Hubs (<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/students/hubs/>). Staff will advise you on matters related to enrolment and Majors in either the BA or BSocSci. If you want to know more about how our courses may fit your career goals, see the SOCA Careers site (<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/careers/careerassistance/major/soca.html>).

For detailed descriptions of our courses, go to the Program finder on the University website and search for the BA or BSocSci 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:

- **Dr Terry Leahy | P: 492 16106 | E: Terry.Leahy@newcastle.edu.au**
- **W: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/>**