

Sociology

Units 1-2

Studying VCE Sociology involves understanding the nature of sociological inquiry, exploring youth as a social category, and analysing the institution of family and its evolving dynamics. Students will also examine various sociological theories on deviant behavior, the effects of moral panic on deviance, and discuss crime in Australia, assessing the effectiveness of judicial punishment in influencing behavior.

UNIT 1

AOS1 – Youth

AOS2 – Family

In this unit, students explore the way youth is constructed as a social category. Students examine how and why the experience of being young differs across time and space. They examine a range of factors that lead to different experiences of youth, as well as the potential negative impacts of homogenous categorization. Students also investigate the social institution of the family. In a multicultural society like Australia, different communities have different kinds of families and experiences of family life. A range of theoretical approaches are used by sociologists to explain the purpose and experiences of family life, including functionalist and feminist approaches. Comparative methodologies also enable comparison of family types and family experiences across time and space.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Class and group discussions, group work, research and investigations, individual presentations, note-taking and literature review, analysis of case studies, theoretical inquiry, social observations, experiments and data analysis.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Gather a wide range of relevant source materials, evaluate sources and critical reflect on own and others' approach, describe the nature of sociological inquiry, explain functionalist and feminist views of family, analyse key developments and issues that influenced the experience of family.

ASSESSED TASKS

The assessment tasks can range from a representation analysis, an essay, a report, a media report, a research report, a multimedia presentation, an extended response and a film analysis.

UNIT 2

AOS1 – Deviance

AOS2 – Crime

In this unit students explore the concept of deviance. They investigate the functionalist, social control and labelling theories of deviance. Students also explore the phenomenon known as moral panic. Students also investigate crime and punishment. They explore patterns of crime relating to age, gender and country of birth and consider the significance of a range of factors that may lead people to commit crimes such as financial situation and access to resources and employment, addiction, mental health and wellbeing issues, abuse, neglect, peer pressure and rebellion. Students explore different methods of punishment and the extent to which each of these methods serves the aims of punishment.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Class and group discussions, group work, research and investigations, individual presentations, note-taking and literature review, analysis of case studies, theoretical inquiry, social observations and experiments and data analysis.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Gather and use a variety of relevant source materials, evaluate sources and critical reflect on own and others' approach to the social world, explain and apply the functionalist, social control, interactionist and positive theories of deviance, analyse the impact of moral panic on individuals and groups considered deviant, examine the various ways other nations deal with crime, evaluate the effectiveness of sentencing.

ASSESSED TASKS

The assessment tasks can range from a representation analysis, an essay, a report, a media report, a research report, a multimedia presentation, an extended response and a film analysis.

Sociology

Units 3-4

Studying VCE Sociology enables students to analyse the impacts of historical suppression and the growing public awareness of Australian Indigenous cultures, examine the experiences of ethnicity within Australian society, and explore the general and specific experiences of community. Additionally, students will analyse the nature and purpose of social movements and evaluate their influence on social change.

UNIT 3

AOS1 – Australian Indigenous cultures

AOS2 - Ethnicity

In this unit students critically explore the historical suppression of, and increasing public awareness of, Australian Indigenous cultures. They examine the past and its influence on subsequent generations, as well as contemporary factors that may support and/or limit increasing awareness of Australian Indigenous cultures. Students also investigate ethnicity as a key sociological category that plays an important role in social life. Ethnicity is not fixed and unchanging; instead, ethnic identities constantly evolve and are shaped through a variety of political, cultural and social forces. The concept is often used in contrast to the concept of race, which generally refers to groups based on visible physical characteristics such as skin colour and facial features.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Class and group discussions, group work, research and investigations, individual presentations, note-taking and literature review, analysis of case studies, theoretical inquiry, social observations, experiments and data analysis.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Explain and apply sociological concepts, apply ethical methodology, evaluate sources and critically reflect on their own and others' approaches to understanding the social world, synthesise evidence to draw conclusions.

ASSESSED TASKS

A research report for each area of study, short-answer questions, extended responses.

UNIT 4

AOS1 – Community

AOS2 – Social Movements and Social Change

In this unit students examine the changing definitions and experiences of community. This includes examination of the challenges and opportunities posed by political, social, economic and technological change. Students examine the concept of community with particular reference to the theories of Ferdinand Tonnies and Michel Maffesoli. Students also investigate the role of social movements. A social movement involves a group engaged in an organised effort to achieve social change. Students develop an understanding of the purpose, evolution, power and outcomes of social movements.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Class and group discussions, group work, research and investigations, individual presentations, note-taking and literature review, analysis of case studies, theoretical inquiry, social observations, experiments and data analysis.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Explain and apply sociological concepts, analyse the nature and purpose of social movements, evaluate the influence of social movements on social change, source and use a range of relevant evidence to support observations and analysis.

ASSESSED TASKS

A research report for each area of study, short-answer questions, extended responses.

VCAA ASSESSMENT - the overall study score will consist of: School Assessed Coursework Unit 3 (25%), School Assessed Coursework Unit 4 (25%), 2 hour written examination in November (50%).

NOTE:

Students do not have to have completed Units 1/2 Sociology as a pre-requisite.