UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2871 Power and Powerlessness - 2024

Published on the 19 Sep 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2871
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Social Sciences
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

<u>Useful Links</u>

<u>Handbook</u> <u>Class Timetable</u>

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

What is power? What are its effects? What is power's relation to social inequality? Power is a fundamental concept in the social sciences. It is also one of the most contested. In this course, you will consider different approaches to power and how they apply to the contemporary social

world. We will consider how power is understood and experienced in relation to key social science topics such as culture, economy, ideology, knowledge and identity.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Recognise key theoretical perspectives on power and its relationship to social structures and inequalities
CLO2 : Appraise different perspectives on power and assess their relative strengths and weaknesses
CLO3 : Apply perspective on power to contemporary social problems, structures and inequalities
CLO4 : Demonstrate skills associated with scholarly inquiry including close reading, argumentation, and clear written expression

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Recognise key theoretical perspectives on power and its relationship to social structures and inequalities	• Tutorial participation • Workbook • Debate
CLO2 : Appraise different perspectives on power and assess their relative strengths and weaknesses	• Workbook • Debate
CLO3 : Apply perspective on power to contemporary social problems, structures and inequalities	• Tutorial participation • Workbook • Debate
CLO4 : Demonstrate skills associated with scholarly inquiry including close reading, argumentation, and clear written expression	• Tutorial participation • Workbook • Debate

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Tutorial participation Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Weekly
Workbook Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	45%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 5: 07 October - 13 October, Week 10: 11 November - 17 November
Debate Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 11: 18 November - 24 November

Assessment Details

Tutorial participation

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

You will participate in tutorial discussions, conducted in small groups, on how key ideas/ arguments from the weekly reading apply to a real-world example/issue (provided by the tutor). You will be awarded a participation grade at the end of the term using a detailed grading rubric that will be available on the Learning Management System.

You will receive written feedback via a marked rubric which will be available at the start of term to allow you to work towards clearly defined standards. You will also be provided with preliminary feedback at the midway point of the term.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Recognise key theoretical perspectives on power and its relationship to social structures and inequalities
- CLO3 : Apply perspective on power to contemporary social problems, structures and inequalities
- CLO4 : Demonstrate skills associated with scholarly inquiry including close reading, argumentation, and clear written expression

<u>Assessment Length</u>

N/A

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

Not Applicable

Generative AI is not considered to be of assistance to you in completing this assessment. If you do use generative AI in completing this assessment, you should attribute its use.
For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Give that this is an in-class assessment that involves collaborative discussion with your peers, and one that aims to assess your engagement with course readings and materials, the use of generative AI is deemed neither practicable nor appropriate.

Workbook

Assessment Overview

Following each week's tutorial, you will write up a short 200-word workbook entry summarizing your reflections on the reading and its application to the case study. The workbook entry should build on your tutorial discussions, and incorporate any feedback received from your tutor in-class. The entries should outline the key points emerging from the discussion, as well as any outstanding questions or points of disagreement amongst group members. Workbook entries will be collated and submitted for grading at the halfway point (entries for weeks 2-5) and end (entries for weeks 7-10) of the course.

Total word count: 1600 words (200 words for each entry)

You will receive written feedback via a marked rubric which will be available at the start of term to allow you to work towards clearly defined standards.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognise key theoretical perspectives on power and its relationship to social structures and inequalities
- CLO2 : Appraise different perspectives on power and assess their relative strengths and weaknesses
- CLO3 : Apply perspective on power to contemporary social problems, structures and inequalities
- CLO4 : Demonstrate skills associated with scholarly inquiry including close reading, argumentation, and clear written expression

Assessment Length

1,400 words (200 per entry)

Submission notes

Submit via relevant Turnitin links on Moodle

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.
If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.
For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Given that this assessment builds on your tutorial discussions, and is aimed at assessing your comprehension and application of key concepts, generative AI can at best assist with you editing and referencing.

Debate

Assessment Overview

You will participate in an in-person debate that will see you weigh in on a key scholarly disagreement over the nature of power and how best to address the inequalities it produces. These disagreements will be introduced in the second half of the term and will help bring together and critically contrast the different ideas and perspectives encountered throughout the term. The debate will be scheduled during Week 11. Further details will be provided in class and via the Learning Management System. A rubric will be provided to allow you to work toward clearly defined standards.

You will receive written feedback and a marked rubric within 10 days of the assessment.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognise key theoretical perspectives on power and its relationship to social

structures and inequalities

- CLO2 : Appraise different perspectives on power and assess their relative strengths and weaknesses
- CLO3 : Apply perspective on power to contemporary social problems, structures and inequalities
- CLO4 : Demonstrate skills associated with scholarly inquiry including close reading, argumentation, and clear written expression

Assessment Length

NA

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Generative AI Permission Level

Planning/Design Assistance

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to generate initial ideas, structures, or outlines. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e., what is generated by the tool, software or service should not be a part of your final submission. You should keep copies of your iterations to show your Course Authority if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.
If your Convenor has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text or media that have not been sufficiently modified you may be asked to explain your work, but we recognise that you are permitted to use AI generated text and media as a starting point and some traces may remain. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.
For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

General Assessment Information

Additional information (including grading criteria) about each assessment item will be provided on the course Moodle page. We will also spend some time going over the assessment items in week one.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

An overall (composite) grade of 50% or more is required to pass this course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Topic	Power, inequality & critique This week's classes introduce students to the theme of the course: power and its relationship to social inequality. In addition to introducing the question of power and why it matters, we will introduce students to the tradition of 'critical theory' and social critique that informs how we will approach the issues of power and inequality in this course. We will also outline some of the key tensions and debates in critical theory, which will assist us in comparing the various perspectives on power covered in the course and their relative utility for addressing contemporary social inequalities.
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Topic	Power as a material phenomenon This week we will consider materialist perspectives on power, focusing primarily on the most famous materialist thinker Karl Marx. We will explore Marx's conception of society as a set of structured relationships built around how we produce the things we need to survive and thrive. Building on this, we will look at Marx's conception of power in terms of class relations and struggles. We will also consider how Marx's material perspective has influenced research and theorising about other aspects of social inequality, such as gender inequality.
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Topic	Mystifying power: ideology & consent This week's class engages with attempts to make sense of the role of ideas and ideology in the operations of power. We will review key theories on how ideology is used to justify and naturalise social inequalities and exploitation both historically and in the present.
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Topic	More than matter? Power, status and culture In this week's class, we will explore theories that view power as more than a material phenomenon. We will look specifically at work on the role of social status and culture in the (re)production of social inequalities, drawing on both classical and more recent works.
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Topic	Lived experiences of power & powerlessness This week we will discuss how the lived experiences of subordinated social groups provides unique insights into both the workings of power and its impacts on people's lives. We will review classical and contemporary debates on the subjective dimensions of power, including standpoint theories and work on intersectionality.
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Other	Flexibility week No class!
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Topic	Structures of meaning: Power, knowledge & difference We will explore a different approach to understanding the role of ideas in the operations of power this week, focusing on the question of the relationship between power, language and truth. We will discuss work in the structuralist and poststructuralist traditions, with a particular focus on Michel Foucault's radical rethinking of power and its relationship to knowledge.
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Topic	Power, agency, and resistance This week we engage with the question of human agency and how it relates to the operations of power. We will explore a range of approaches to this question, including theories that view human agency as being fundamentally about resistance to power, as well as more subtle perspectives that explore how power works through human agency and how this process can be subverted.
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Topic	Recognition or redistribution? Bringing together themes discussed throughout the course, this week's class will explore debates about the relative emphasis given to questions of cultural difference and material inequalities in contemporary theories of power. This will include a discussion of the purported shift from class politics to identity politics and what this means for the ability of critical theory to make sense of contemporary power relations and the resurgence of material inequality.
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Topic	Course summary & the principles of argumentation We conclude the course this week with a reflection on the core themes and debates covered in the preceding weeks. We will also discuss the principles of formulating an argument in order to prepare students for the final assessment (debate).

Attendance Requirements

Students are graded on tutorial participation, which requires tutorial attendance. Furthermore, tutorial participation requires students to draw on concepts covered in lectures and course readings, meaning that students will need to attend lectures and complete required readings prior to attending tutorials (adequate preparation is included in tutorial participation grading criteria).

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Course readings will be accessible via UNSW Library's Leganto system (accessible via the course Moodle page). All required/mandatory readings will be available in electronic format.

Recommended Resources

An additional set of recommended (optional) readings will be listed for each week's topic. These are also listed in Leganto.

Course Evaluation and Development

A number of course readings have been updated as part of a long-term and ongoing effort to include a more diverse range of authors and standpoints.

Course assessment tasks have also been revised in light of student feedback on the value of in-class practical/discussion-based activities and engagement with real world examples.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Andrew Clarke				By appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;

- Student Support Services;
- Student equity and disability;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Examination information;
- Review of results;

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to

introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,

- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Location: Room 159, Morven Brown Building (C20), Kensington campus

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (except public holidays)

Telephone: +61 2 9385 1807

Email: soss@unsw.edu.au

Web: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/social-sciences