

SOCIOL 317: Changing Welfare State Policies Final Assignment

- Instead of an exam, you will complete a final assignment and submit this via Canvas using the ‘assignments’ – ‘final assignment’ tab.
- This is worth 40% of your final grade.
- You will have a *24-hour window* in which to complete this, starting from **1pm on 18 June 2020 and with the assignment due by 1pm on 19 June. Please aim to submit by 12pm to allow for possible internet/upload difficulties etc as your assignment will NOT be accepted if late.** If you are overseas, please make sure you do your time conversions correctly so you do not miss the deadline!
- It is expected that it will take you about *2 hours* to write this assignment BUT only if you have done *considerable* preparatory work before the due day (see below).
- You will need to download a final assignment answer booklet, write or cut and paste content you have already prepared into the booklet and upload this to Canvas.
 - If the essays are not in the answer booklet, they will not be marked.
 - **Please do NOT save the answer booklet as PDF**, so we can check word counts easily.
 - Do not write overly long essays, as once we get to 1100 words we will stop marking the essay – this means **you need to carefully plan and revise your assignment so every word matters!**
 - Do not submit until you are absolutely sure you do not want to change anything as you will NOT be able to re-open a submitted assignment or make multiple submissions.

Assignment questions

The final assignment aims to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of course material across the *entire* semester, but with a particular focus on material not assessed in other assignments. It will consist of two parts:

- A **COMPULSORY** question on the final section of the course entitled ‘From public to private?’ (lectures 18-21). This will follow a similar structure to the policy briefing assignment (with three sections, all of which must be completed) but no briefing-style formatting is required.

This is worth 20 marks and should be approximately 1000 words.

- A **COMPULSORY** question that focuses on changes in the welfare state over time. This will follow a more traditional academic essay format and YOU get to choose to focus on **ONE** of the following topics:
 - *children and young people;*
 - *work & wages;*
 - *social security OR*

- *addressing the needs of ethnic minorities, such as Māori and Pasifika peoples*

This is worth 20 marks and should be approximately 1000 words.

Important notes

- It is expected you will write more carefully crafted/longer responses than possible under exam conditions because you will be typing on computers using spell check and open book conditions apply. However:
 - You are NOT expected to do independent research beyond studying your lectures/course readings closely and discussing these in relation to the questions given (i.e. we do not want you to just repeat these verbatim).
 - You are NOT expected to provide references to material coming from lectures and course readings – but if you do refer to other material (books, online material etc) please provide an in-text reference and reference list.
- You need to demonstrate your knowledge of course material whenever you can, so please *define* any key concepts used in your essays.
- As with other written assignments, your essays should include a short *introduction* and *conclusion*.
- You will be *rewarded for referring to relevant course readings* (preferably by author name) in ways that demonstrate your understanding of the essay topic.
- Since we cannot hold an invigilated exam, *academic integrity* becomes even more important than usual. In completing the answer booklet, you will be confirming that you:
 - *completed this assignment by yourself*
 - *did not copy material straight from online sources or other people* (Turnitin will be used and plagiarism penalised)
 - *did not allow anyone to copy any part of your assignment*

How can you best prepare for the final assignment?

- Although you have a 24-hour window in which to submit, you cannot guarantee that on the day you will have sufficient internet/computer access, quiet space, physical or mental health to complete the assignment from start to finish (i.e. reading all lecture notes/readings, taking notes, writing these up in response to the question).
- It is expected it will take you two hours to just *write the essays on the day*, NOT do all of this preparation work as well within that time!
- **You must do most of this preparation BEFORE 18 June:**

- You should *at least* make some comprehensive notes on each essay topic (saved electronically in text format) – then you can write these up in to essays on the day to suit the particular question
- *Ideally, you will have already have drafted the essays* before 18 June, then you can simply reorient them slightly to meet the essay questions on the day and cut and paste them into the final assignment marking booklet.

- Watch the final assignment workshop as it indicates how you can use note-taking templates to help you identify key themes/trends that will allow you to demonstrate understanding *across* course material not just individual lectures.

Marking criteria sheet – FINAL ASSIGNMENT ESSAYS

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not attempted
ORGANISATION					
Introduction - topic and approach explained					
Progression – ideas/arguments flow logically					
Conclusion - summarises key points raised					
CONTENT					
All sections answered					
Arguments are substantiated with relevant evidence/examples					
Cited course readings are relevant to question and support arguments					
Relevant lecture material is analysed across lectures/course not just repeated verbatim					
If material from course work is used, it is relevant and applied to question					
Key concepts are defined					
PRESENTATION					
If in-text citations and reference list are used they are accurately set out using APA 6 style					
Appropriate length (1000 words excluding refs) with word count noted					
Spelling, grammar and sentence construction of an appropriate academic standard					

