

Paper Number

176.322

Paper Title

The World of Work: Contemporary Issues.

Credit Value

15 credits

Calendar Prescription

This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the changed nature of work in contemporary society. It examines the broader context of change, contemporary forms and patterns of work and occupations and issues and perspectives on global and local labour markets.

Pre and co requisites

None, other than the requirement that before entering a 300-level Sociology paper, a student must have completed a 200-level University paper.

Semester

Semester 2

Campus

Auckland (Albany)

Mode

Internal

E-Learning Category

S (Web Supported)

Paper Coordinator and lecturer contact details

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Teaching Timetable (for internal papers only):

Please see <http://publictimetable.massey.ac.nz/> for timetabling information.

Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete this paper should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the major changes that have taken place globally in the world of work over recent decades;
2. discuss cogently a range of theoretical debates surrounding these changes;
3. identify the impact of change on the way work is organised in Aotearoa/New Zealand;
4. identify the impact of change on the way individuals perceive both work and their work lives;
5. develop the critical thinking skills and a framework for critiquing and analysing work and working in contemporary society;
6. search proficiently the library and other databases for books and journal articles relevant to the course content;
7. relate the literature and research in the area to an issue of the student's choice.

Major topics or paper structure

Major topics may include:

- The economic, political and technological context: industrialism to post-industrialism:
- Organizations and organizational change
- Non-standard work
- New Patterns in 'Careers'
- The personal dimension: the 'corrosion of character' and resistance
- Work and insecurity
- Work and Ethnicity
- Self-employment and entrepreneurship
- Women and Work
- Case studies

Assessment Proportions

100% internal. See below

Description of assessment activities

Assessment will be based on three essays. Essays 1 and 2 (word length each of between 1,500 – 1,800 words) are worth 25% of the final grade. Essay 3, with a word length of 3,000 words is worth 50% of the final grade.

Assignment one is related to learning outcomes 1 and 2 and will require students to demonstrate an understanding of the major changes that have taken place globally in the world of work over recent decades and set these within a theoretical context.

Assignment two is related to learning outcomes 3 and 4 and will require students to focus on changes to work and working in Aotearoa/New Zealand and the impacts these changes have for various sub-groups of workers within local labour markets.

The final assignment will be on a topic chosen by the student (in consultation with the course controller) which is directly related to a major issue in the sociology of work in the contemporary world. This assignment is directly related to learning outcome 7.

All three assignments are related to learning outcomes 5 and 6.

Due dates / deadlines

The due dates for assignments (and any other internal assessment components) will be advised at the start of the semester.

Penalties

Students who are unable to meet assignment deadlines, due to extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances, may negotiate an extension with the course controller.

Assignment turnaround

Every effort is made to return assignments - when handed in by the due date - within a two week period.

Any specific requirements for passing the paper

TBA

Principal Textbook

Spoonley, P., Dupuis, A. and de Bruin, A. (eds) (2004) *Work and Working in Twenty-first Century New Zealand*, Palmerston North: Dunmore Press.

Stephen Edgell (2006) *The Sociology of Work: Continuity and Change in Paid and Unpaid Work*. London: Sage Publications.

A supplementary book of readings will also be available at the Student Notes Distribution Centre.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this paper outline is correct as of 12/10/2009. Any changes will be notified to students at the beginning of the year.