

## SO337 Racisms and Antiracisms

### Assessment Brief

There are three elements of assessment which contribute to your mark for SO337. They are:

- 1) Seminar Participation (10% of the overall module mark)
- 2) Short Essay of 1,200 words (45% of the overall module mark)
- 3) Essay Conversation of 10-15 minutes (45% of the overall module mark)

This assessment structure is designed to support you in developing independent thinking and analysis, and the ability to demonstrate these skills. In the world beyond university, you need to be able to engage with others and with information and ideas. Even if in the future you will use tools like AI to help you digest information, without the ability to do this on your own, you will not be able to tell when the AI has made a mistake or misled you. Nor will you be able to explain to others why you are suggesting certain conclusions over others.

This assessment strategy rewards students who participate in the module throughout, and tests both writing skills and in-person explanation. These are skills you will need beyond university, as well as aiming to be an authentic measure of what you have learned during the module.

Please read through the more detailed guide below, and ask any further questions you have to help you get the most out of your learning on the module.

#### 1. Seminar Participation (10%)

This involves participation in seminars to support learning, skills development and preparation for other elements of assessment. Students who attend all seminars will receive 100% for this assessment component.

#### 2. Short Essay of 1,200 words (45%)

A 1,200 word essay which will also be the basis of the Essay Conversation (oral exam). The essay title will be selected from a choice of titles provided by the module convenor. It will be marked against the module learning outcomes and the Sociology undergraduate marking criteria.

#### 3. Essay Conversation of 10 minutes (45%)

A 10 minute in-person one-to-one conversation (oral exam) with the examiner (usually the module convenor) about the Short Essay that has been submitted. Students will be given a framework for the kinds of questions that will be asked in advance, but each conversation will be unique and tailored to the work that has been submitted. Marking will use the usual marking criteria and learning outcomes, with a particular focus on understanding, critical thinking, evaluation and analysis. Conversations will be audio recorded for checking by the moderator and external examiner.

#### FAQs

*What if I can't attend all of the seminars?*

Students who have up to two authorised absences (authorised absences require evidence of reason for absence) will receive 100% for this component.

Students with unauthorised absences will receive 0% for this component.

Students with more than two authorised absences can apply for mitigating circumstances and if mitigating circumstances are granted they will be able to take the reassessment component (Seminar Reflections – see below) instead.

*What if I have not submitted my Short Essay by the time of the Essay Conversation?*

Without your Short Essay, the Essay Conversation cannot proceed.

*What will the Essay Conversation be like?*

The Essay Conversation is an oral exam, however, we will do our best to make this a relaxed and supportive environment. The purpose is for you to be able to demonstrate your understanding, critical thinking, evaluation and analysis skills. It will take place in a quiet room, and the only people present will be you and the examiner (usually the module convenor, Hannah Jones), but the conversation will be audio-recorded so that the moderator and external examiner can check that it was conducted fairly.

The examiner will have read your essay and prepared some questions to discuss further the ideas you have presented there. See the guide below for the kinds of questions that might be asked, but be aware that these will be tailored to what you personally have written in your essay.

*What can I take into the Essay Conversation (oral exam)?*

You cannot bring in notes or devices. You will be asked to leave these in a separate place during the exam. You will be provided with a copy of the essay you submitted and a pen, so you can refer to your essay and make notes during the conversation. You will be provided with drinking water if you need it. If you have reasonable adjustments from Disability Services, the exam arrangements will accommodate these, and you may want to discuss this with the module convenor in advance.

*How should I prepare for the Essay Conversation?*

The best way to prepare overall is to engage with the module throughout, by attending and participating actively in lectures and seminars, keeping up with key readings and exploring the longer reading list. Asking questions to check understandings and develop ideas throughout seminars and Advice and Feedback hours during term will give you the best foundations to do well in all aspects of the module, and get the most learning out of it for yourself. We will also practice the skills and discuss the format for the Essay Conversation during some of the seminars.

The next thing to do is to plan and write your short essay in an effective way. Pay attention to the Learning Outcomes and Marking Criteria to check you are demonstrating what the markers are looking for. Give yourself time to plan and edit your work, and discuss it with the course convenor or your module tutor to check you are on the right track and to polish your work.

Once you have completed your essay and you are directly preparing for the oral exam, take a few days break from your essay and then read it again with fresh eyes so you can see the kinds of questions another reader might have. Take a look at the question framework (below) to see what kind of questions you will be asked, and think about how they apply to your own essay. Think about what kind of questions you might be asked, and how you would answer the questions. You can make notes on this, though you will not be able to bring these into the exam. Use your own intelligence to do this, not an AI assistant. You are being tested on your own

thinking skills, and you will not be able to use AI in the oral exam, so you need to practice thinking, analysing and responding without it.

*What if I am late for the Essay Conversation or can't attend?*

You should make every effort to arrive a few minutes early for your Essay Conversation. This is an exam, and the time will not be rearranged without evidence of mitigating circumstances. As with any other exam, students who do not attend and do not have mitigating circumstances will receive a mark of 0% for this assessment component.

*What if I fail or do not submit one assessment component?*

Your marks for the different assessment components will be combined, based on their weightings outlined above. If your weighted average is a passing grade (40% or above), this is the grade you will receive for the overall assessment. If your weighted average is lower than the pass grade (40%), you may need to resit the assessment.

*What is the format for reassessment?*

If you have to resit the module, the Short Essay and Essay Conversation components will be the same, but you will need to pick a different essay question from your first sit. The Seminar Participation element of the assessment will be replaced by a Seminar Reflections element in which you will be required to write an additional 1,000 word piece responding to specific seminar reflection questions, to be marked in line with the usual marking criteria and learning outcomes.

### **Question framework for the Essay Conversation**

The Essay Conversation will be tailored to what you have written in your Short Essay, and so you will probably not be asked any of the following questions word-for-word. However, you can use this as a guide to help you prepare and consider the kinds of things that will be discussed.

1. If you mentioned a particular theory or writer, or a conclusion they made: What kinds of evidence and arguments did they present to reach this conclusion? Why did you find this convincing?
2. If you discussed more than one theory or writer in your essay: How do these different theories/writers fit together? In what ways do they complement, contradict, or extend one another's work?
3. If you presented a particular case study or example: How does this fit with other key ideas we have discussed in the module? [The question would draw only on a specific key reading or central idea which has been discussed in lectures and seminars]

You may be asked follow up questions on your answers to any of the above, to help you to demonstrate your understanding of the module content and your critical thinking, evaluation and analysis abilities.

You may be asked about any of the ideas or literature you mention in your essay, and any material from key readings and explicitly covered in lectures and seminars. You will not be tested on understandings of the entire contents of the longer reading list, other than this.