

Tutorial Letter 201/1/2018

Globalisation & Social Change in South Africa

SOC2602

Semester 1

Department of Sociology

- **Feedback on Assignments One & Two**
- **General information on the forthcoming examination**

BARCODE

Dear Student,

This tutorial letter contains four important items concerning the SOC2602 module for the first semester. These are: comments and feedback on assignment one; comments and feedback on assignment two; general information on the forthcoming examination at the end of the semester, as well as information on the services of the e-tutor.

Part One: Comments and Feedback on Assignment One (MCQs)

The first assignment is a multiple-choice-questions assignment and it was compulsory for you to complete in order to obtain exam admission.

To understand multiple choice questions, how to work with them and the best way to answer them, you should read the SOCAL306/301/3/2018 Tutorial Letter on *How to do Assignments*. Below, I provide you with explanations to these questions and the correct answers are given in brackets.

Question 1 (5)

Question 1 is based on the discussion on pages 1 to 2 in the study guide. Notice that the stem requires you to identify the most correct statement among the 5 options. This means careful reading of all the options and understanding whether they make sense in relationship to what you have studied in the guide. Options 1, 2, 3, and 4 are all correct in terms of what the aim of the module is. Option 5 is the most correct option because it states that all of the above options are true.

Question 2 (4)

In Question 2, the “correct” choice is (4). All the other options are incorrect. If you read pages 4 to 5 of the study guide, you will see that section 1.2 lays out Marais’s views on an analysis of South Africa’s political history. Accordingly, most accounts, according to Marais, tend to neglect socio-economic dimensions of South Africa (and not the methodological and theoretical, which are distractors, if you did not read the study guide). The third option is incorrect because it is the radical theorists (or revisionists) who reduce the race-class debate to racism and apartheid following the needs of capitalism. Option 5 is clearly incorrect given that not “only” socio-economic factors can adequately and fully explain South Africa’s transition. The second last paragraph on page five of the Study Guide leaves no doubt that option 4 is the correct answer for this question.

Question 3 (5)

The correct answer to Question 3 is (5). Option 1 is correct because many liberal theorists tended to reduce explanations for the crisis in capitalism to the irrationalities of racism and by doing so overemphasised these irrationalities. Liberals focus on and support the free market and tend to advocate that the latter would eventually replace the apartheid state as stated on page 5 of the study guide. Therefore option 2 is correct. Option 3 is also correct as stated in the study guide on page 5 (1st paragraph) that “both radicals and liberals ... tended to underemphasise the complex symbiosis of capitalism and the apartheid system...” You should have picked up earlier that in the study guide the term “neo-Marxist” is used also to refer to radicals or radical theorists and vice versa (read page 4). Furthermore, in the study guide, a “complex symbiosis” is referring to a complex relationship between capital and the apartheid state. Option 4 is also therefore correct and can be read off on page 5 of the study guide. The

ultimately correct answer then, or 'most correct answer' is option 5, which accepts that all the preceding options are correct.

Question 4 (1)

In Question 4, option 1 is the correct choice. Turn to study unit 1 and read from page 12 to 16. This will give you a full explanation and understanding of the context in which the political-economy approach is applied to the country, South Africa. The correct answer itself can be read off pages 15 to 16. Carefully read the options in the question, then re-read these pages of the study guide to eliminate those incorrect choices.

Question 5 (5)

For Question 5 read from page 12 to 14 of the study guide. This was a pretty straightforward question where the answers could simply be read off in the study guide. You will see that all of the given options are correct and accurate of the Marxist approach to political economy and that option 5 is the all-encompassing choice to have made.

Question 6 (2)

In Question 6 again you had to choose the "incorrect" option which is (2). Read from page 8 to 9 of the study guide. This was also a straightforward question that could easily have been answered based on your close attention to the text in your study guide on page 9. Colonialism is not a theoretical approach in political economy. It actually describes a historical era in which world expansionism and divisions took place, among other exploits. Hence, option 2 is incorrect in terms of accuracy. Read also pages 22-23 of study unit 2 on globalisation.

Question 7 (3)

Question 7 was another question posed in the negative (or asking you to identify the incorrect option among all the options). You can read on neo-Marxism from the bottom of page 12 to page 14 in the study guide. The answer is again quite clear in this question, had you read the guide.

Question 8 (5)

In Question 8, all of the options are correct and the best logical choice would have been option 5. The answer is contained on page 20 in the study guide.

Question 9 (4)

In Question 9 the incorrect option is (4). Again, if you read through pages 20 to 26 of the study guide, you will identify that all the options apart from option 4 are correct statements. On page 22, Hoogvelt (1997) is said to link "the emergence and nature of contemporary globalisation to the historical expansion of industrial capitalism in the form of colonialism..." (own italics).

Question 10 (4)

To answer question 10, you should read the detailed discussion from page 27 (section 2.3.3) to page 32, and even the preceding pages before this section. You would have deduced the correct option. On page 28 of the study guide it is stated that Marais is not optimistic about the future for South Africa's transition to political democracy. On page 27 of the study guide, a discussion of Amin's uncertainty about the position of South Africa in the world system is given (the reason is that partly because of the manifestation of all four-types of worlds in South Africa). Again, pages 28-9 contradict the statement made in option 3. Read carefully on these pages! Option 5 is incorrect too because Marais contradicts all views stating South Africa can "catch up" (which is a modernisation theory argument and Marais tends towards a neo-Marxist position) with the First World countries. Option 4 is correct and can be found on page 29 of the study guide.

Part Two: Comments and Feedback on Assignment Two (Essay)

Assignment Topic:

Write an essay in which you discuss Marais' view that the negotiated settlement created constraints and limits to social change and transformation in South Africa. In your discussion, indicate whether you agree or disagree with Marais' views and why.

General comments

We take it for granted that you made extensive and judicious use of the tutorial letter SOCAL36/301/3/2018 in preparing for and writing your essay. It is important that you make use of that tool as it is intended to develop and harness your academic writing and thinking skills that become indispensable as you progress further in your academic studies.

Assuming that you did read and understand the contents of this tutorial letter, it is then expected that your essay will, among other features: show that you clearly understood what the question requires from you; complies with all the technical conventions including – table of contents, citing of sources, list of sources etc.; and also shows that you have an idea of what the lecturers are looking for when assessing your essay.

With those preliminary remarks, below are general ideas on how you could approach the topic, without any prescription on actual sequence, style and content.

Introductory section

An introductory section is ordinarily a place where you take your reader along and help them make sense of what is it that your essay is dealing with and how do you go about doing it. In other words, this is a place where you convey your own understanding of the general and specific requirements of the assignment topic and your own response to them. In compiling this section, please make sure to avoid general and unrelated discussions that do very little to assist the reader to quickly come to terms with the purpose of your work. No doubt you can provide background and context to the topic but that shouldn't come at the expense of brevity and clarity to the overall purpose of the essay. The basic idea is that upon reading your introduction, the reader should know exactly what problem your essay is addressing, the structure of the essay and its possible conclusions.

Body of your Essay

As per the general guidelines contained in SOCAL36 tutorial letter, the body of your essay is a place where you share the details of your approach and argument based on the information you managed to extract and organise from the reading material. This section should ideally be divided into subheadings determined by your own interpretation of the material and your own judgement on the best way to make it intelligible. Remember that the cardinal rule remains is to concentrate on essential details that illuminate important dimensions of the theme under consideration and not get carried away with digressions and matters that do not contribute in any significant way to the overall quality of your essay.

Below is an outline of the key issues that a good quality essay will have to address given the topic under consideration:

You should give a summary of how a negotiated settlement in South Africa came about; in other words, what was the road to the process that ultimately culminated with what came to be considered a 'miracle' in some circles. The focus here should be to identify and describe the conditions that made the negotiation process both necessary and possible. What are the factors that pushed the key role players to such a path?

The essay should then provide the essential details of the main features of the negotiated settlement that became the basis for a Constitution as the foundational vision statement of the new South Africa. In other words, in the context of the give and take nature of a negotiations process, what are the significant compromises that formed the settlement?

You should then evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the settlement from the point of view of promoting transformation and social change in the country. Include a discussion of Marais' views on the meaning of the settlement for the challenges of transformation and social change. The notions of social change and transformation, although not explicitly defined in the study guide, should be approached from the point of view of an understanding of the defining features of the social, economic and political nature of the apartheid system that needed to be altered. It is in this way that the measure of whether or not the negotiated settlement is facilitates or limits social change and transformation can be validated. The issue is whether the constitution of the democratic republic of South Africa promotes or eradicates the legacy of racial and economic exclusion.

Engage with Marais' views, either in agreement or disagreement on what he considers to be the limiting and constraining aspects of the negotiated settlement on social change and transformation. In this discussion, you need to point to concrete aspects of the negotiated settlement in the form of the actual provisions in the Constitution that Marais highlights as instances of the constraints and limits to social change and transformation in South Africa. Hence the assignment topic explicitly instructs you to make arguments and provide evidence to back whatever stance you take on Marais' characterisation of the negotiated outcome.

Concluding section

As per SOCAL36, a concluding section is a place where you summarise the main elements in your essay and reflect on the meaning of key issues under consideration. What overall conclusions can you reach on the main questions raised or implied by the assignment topic?

Part Three: General Information on the Examination

Your examination paper will consist of four essay questions of 50 marks each. You will have to select and answer any **two** questions out of the four. There will not be any multiple-choice questions in the examination. The total of the examination paper is 100 marks and counts 80% towards your final assessment in the module. You will have 2 hours in which to complete your answers to the examination paper. This implies that you should spend approximately one hour on each question to complete your examination.

The examination covers the full extent of your work, i.e. the whole study guide and the contents of the comments tutorial letter. Lecturers will not provide a delimitation of the work that will be covered in the examination; you just have to study the whole guide to stand a chance of doing well in this module. To assist in your examination preparations, we encourage you to make use of copies of examination papers from previous years available on the SOC2602 site on myUNISA. Whilst it is a good idea to practice answering essay questions as part of your preparations, please note that as a general rule, lecturers do not mark such practice essays.

Part Four: The services of the SOC2602 E-tutor

We would like to suggest that you consider it compulsory to make extensive use of the services of the SOC2602 e-tutor on myUNISA, not only for your exam preparations, but most importantly for the entirety of your learning mission, including preparation and submission of assignments. They are employed specifically to provide additional support and ease your learning journey. For the SOC2602 module, you are highly privileged to have the services of an energetic, responsive and well qualified e-tutor. He posts topics and themes on the site on a weekly basis and conducts discussions around these. It is here that you can also post your topics of interest and interact with fellow learners, under the guidance of the e-tutor. The lecturers continuously monitor those interactions and will from time to time make interventions as and when necessary. You can also post your problems and other learning difficulties in the other discussion platforms on myUNISA in case you do not find adequate joy from the rest.

Conclusion

We hope you find the feedback and general comments contained in this tutorial letter useful and worthwhile in your endeavours in this semester.

Best regards,
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