



LEVEL 3

Democracy, Liberty & Justice

3DLJ

What is this course about?

Democracy, Liberty & Justice explores social issues, conflicting points of view, social change, and focuses on being engaged citizens who work to bring about social improvement.

Students will ponder questions such as: How does culture and context influence behaviour? Why do people subscribe to different ideologies? How do individuals, communities, and societies both respond to and attempt to bring about change? What actions can we personally take that might bring about social improvement? How can we become informed, critical, active, and responsible citizens?

What sorts of things will I do?

We use the tools of social science to think about questions that matter in the world. These often relate to human rights and responsibilities, to issues of inequality or oppression or marginalisation in the world. Central to the course is developing a "sociological imagination" through in-class discussion and debate, examination of current social issues and exploration of academic literature.

The social inquiry cycle will be followed to independently complete a critical social inquiry research project exploring an area of social justice or cultural change. Students will take part in an in-depth class exploration of social actions and the perspectives, values and points of view relating to various social issues. Different campaigns will be considered from different ideological viewpoints including the responses for social change.

Students will consider this area or another "real world" social issue and may take part in their own campaign to highlight their chosen issue and effect change.

Learning capabilities/ critical skills

Significant Learning

- The common thread running through every topic in our course is the exploration of points of view, values and ideologies (sometimes referred to as ideological perspectives).
- Developing skills in social-inquiry research and deeper understandings about the causes and effects of social issues that relate to identity, culture, and organisation, and the actions that may bring about social improvement.
- Social studies concepts describe the fundamental and enduring relationships between people in a society. These may include (amongst others!): society, culture, change, perspectives, rights, values, sovereignty, government, religion, laws, roles, responsibilities, community, diversity, and social justice.

Rangatiratanga: (as it appears in the Hikairo Schema)

Rangatiratanga (self-determination) supports ākonga to achieve. Thinking and meaning-making are promoted. Learning is meaningful and connected.

To experience success, students will have opportunities to develop their learning dispositions through:

Engagement:

- You will: engage with kaiako instruction, think critically, access and utilise resources during class time, at home and during self-directed learning.
- You will work in partnership with kaiako to be reflective and inclusive of indigenous texts and multiple perspectives in your learning.
- You will take control of your learning, participate in activities or tasks and seek to clarify and understand learning objectives, assessment criteria, and your learning needs.

Managing self:

- You will work in partnership with kaiako to establish and meet personal learning goals and milestones.
- You will take the initiative to make informed choices, develop language skills, and clarify understanding.
- You will manage your time to avoid distractions and complete a variety of learning tasks.

Learning relationships:

- You will develop and demonstrate good communication skills with your teachers and peers to be able to relate to others effectively. This will enable you to extend your learning and deepen your understanding through questioning, dialogue, discussion, and group work.

What standards can I enter?

Your teacher will work with the whole class and with you to devise a learning programme that is responsive to your strengths, interests, and one that sets you up to aim high and achieve your potential.

NCEA	Standard Number	Name of standard	Assessment mode	Credits (W/R)	Time frame
INT	US8991	Evaluate sociological theories	Written report or podcast	5	Term 1
INT	AS91600	SOC3.5 Examine a campaign of social action(s) to influence policy change(s)	Report or presentation	4 (R)	Term 2
INT	AS91597	SOC3.2 Conduct a critical social inquiry	Report or presentation	6 (R)	Term 3
INT	AS91599	SOC3.4 Examine personal involvement in a social action that aims to influence policy change(s)	Portfolio	6 (R)	(Optional)
EXT	AS91596	SOC3.1 Demonstrate understanding of ideological responses to an issue	External exam (digital or paper)	4 (R/W)	November

Key for Credits column:

R - UE reading literacy

W - UE writing literacy

Frequently asked questions

Do I need to have taken DLJ before?

No, you do not. It's new to many students! A good level of English communication skills is important, however.

Where does DLJ go from here?

Social Studies is a growth area for tertiary study in New Zealand. Scholars in Social Studies would find appropriate learning paths throughout the humanities and social sciences, but would especially be well set for ongoing study in: law; social work; education; political studies; global studies; social and public policy; peace and conflict studies; human rights studies; gender, children, and women's studies; indigenous studies; Māori and Pasifika studies; labour studies and industrial relations; and social and community leadership. The Universities of Auckland, Canterbury, Otago, Waikato, the Victoria University of Wellington, Massey University and the Auckland University of Technology, as well as Te Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa and Unitec all offer further studies in this learning area.

Is DLJ a University Entrance approved subject at Level 3?

Yes, the Social Studies standards we assess are all University Entrance approved. Please note this means for University Entrance in this subject you would need to complete the optional social action standard and/or the external exam.

Are there costs associated with this course?

Class trips may incur charges for transport and entry fees.