

**TARAS SHEVCHENKO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF KYIV
FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY**

Department of Theory and History of Sociology



Approved by
Vice-Dean of Faculty of Sociology

« 31 » 08 2026

SYLLABUS

CURRENT ISSUES OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

for students

science type	C Social Sciences, Journalism, Information and International Relations
Specialty	C5 «Sociology»
Educational level	Master's degree
Academic program	«Sociology»
Course type	Elective

Form of study	full time
Academic year	2026/2027
Semester	3
ECTS credits	4
Language of teaching	English
Final control	Exam

Lecturer: Dr. Viktor STEPANENKO

KYIV – 2026

Syllabus for the course was developed by
Doctor of Sociological Sciences Viktor STEPANENKO

APPROVED

Acting Head of the Department of Theory and History of
Sociology

 Maryna SOBOLEVSKA
Dated "22 upbav" 2026.prot. No. 11

APPROVED by the Academic (Scientific and Methodic) Council of the Faculty of Sociology

Dated "24" June 2026, prot. No. 9

Head of the Academic Council  Tetiana CHERVINSKA

1. The goal of the course is to introduce students into the world discourse of the current social science debate on the core social problems, the recent results of comparative studies; to improve academic discussion and presentation skills, focus on the possibility of comparative analysis of social problems in different societies, and further usage in their own research work and the MA research.

2. Preliminary requirements for the course:

1. to know English at the level of B1 (average level), theoretical foundations of sociology, contemporary sociological research projects, sociological approach to the analysis of social phenomena, terminology, conceptual basis and foundations of modern sociological theory and research.

2. to be able to work with sociological data, read professional sociological publications and formulate ideas in English

3. to have basic skills in searching and selecting relevant information in English; to use methodologies and conceptual ideas of sociological analysis; to debate the issues; to present and discuss own position on the selected topic.

3. Annotation of the course: The content of the course focuses on students' research interests, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, is open to discussion of the most important current issues of international comparative sociological research. The work focuses on analyzing and discussing recent publications in English-language sociological peer-reviewed journals in order to include undergraduates in the most relevant agenda for academic debate based on recent research findings. The format of work is the colloquium, which combines discussion, lectures, practical tasks, that is adequate for students of the Master's degree. Teaching and learning is in English to enhance the professional language ability of MA students, enriching their professional academic vocabulary in sociological terminology, developing academic skills for writing abstracts, presentation and debate skills.

4. Tasks (training objectives) are:

- to study the core issues of social sciences within the framework of international advanced sociological debates (within the framework of the major reports of congresses of the International Sociological Association)
- to improve qualifications in finding and selecting, analyzing and developing sources and ideas for self-study MA, as part of the latest publications in peer-reviewed international sociological journals in English.
- to improve academic discussion and presentation skills in English, comparative analysis of social problems in different societies,

that are aimed at development of the following competencies:

- 3K04. Ability to work in an international context.
- CK01. Ability to analyse social phenomena and processes
- CK02. Ability to identify, diagnose and interpret social problems in Ukrainian society and the global community
- CK06. Ability to adhere to the standards of professional ethics for sociologists in one's work and to be guided by universal human values
- CK08. The ability to collaborate with European and Euro-Atlantic institutions
- CK14. The ability to apply sociological theories in academic and professional practice

5. Expected learning outcomes:

learning outcomes (1. knowledge; 2. skills; 3. communication; 4. autonomy and responsibility)		Forms, methods of teaching and learning	Methods of evaluation	Per cent in final grade
Code	learning outcomes			
1.1	to know the results of contemporary sociological research on key social issues	Lectures, workshops	Discussions Exam	15
1.2	to know the system of basic sociological indicators for studying the quality of life and social problems of modern societies	Lectures, workshops	Discussions Exam	15
2.1	to be able to work with social information, data from sociological research	Lectures, workshops, individual work	Discussions Analytical review, its presentation	15

			Final control work Exam	
2.2	to be able to identify, analyze and interpret the actual social problems of society development	Lectures, workshops, individual work	Commented bibliography Analytical review, its presentation, Final control work, Exam	15
3.1	to demonstrate skills of reasoned presentation of own opinion, competent and tolerant discussion with opponents.	Lectures, workshops, individual work	Discussions Analytical review, its presentation Final control work Exam	20
4.1	to demonstrate skills of independent research work, mastering of new knowledge	Workshops, individual work	Discussions Commented bibliography Analytical review, its presentation Final control work	20

6. The correspondence of the results of studying with program learning outcomes

Program Learning outcomes (IIP)	Learning outcomes PH (code)					
	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	4.1
Diagnose and interpret social problems in Ukrainian society and the global community, their causes and consequences (IIPH02)			+	+	+	+
Communicate freely, both orally and in writing, in Ukrainian and one of the foreign languages when discussing professional issues, research and innovations in the field of sociology and related sciences, including in the context of cooperation with European and Euro-Atlantic institutions (IIPH06)		+	+	+	+	+
Be able to use sociological theories in scientific and professional activities (IIPH15)	+	+	+	+		

7. Scheme of evaluation.

7.1 Forms of Student Assessment:

- Semester assessment:

Assessed works	Min point	Max points
1. Discussions (PH1.1, PH1.2, PH2.1, PH3.1, PH 4.1)	12	20
2. Commented bibliography (PH2.2, PH 4.1)	6	10
3. Analytical review, its Presentation (Power point) (PH2.1, PH2.2, PH3.1, PH4.1)	9	15
4. Final control work (PH2.1, PH2.2, PH3.1, PH 4.1)	9	15
Semester, total	36	60
Exam (PH1.1, PH1.2, PH2.1, PH2.2, PH3.1)	24	40
Total	60	100

- final evaluation is the EXAM.

For students who have scored a total of less points than a critical minimum of 36 points due to reasonable documented reasons, to get an admission to final exam, it is obligatory to submit written papers – to work out missed workshops for each topic of discipline and the final written papers (commented bibliography and analytical review presentation).

7.2 Evaluation organization:

1. . Participation in discussions – during classes 1-9 topics
2. . Presentation of analytical review – topics 3-9 (by topic, by schedule).
3. . Commented bibliography – topics 3-9 (by topic, by schedule).
4. . Final control work – after topic 9.

7.3 Table of the course grades correspondence:

Відмінно / Excellent	90-100
Добре / Good	75-89
Задовільно / Satisfactory	60-74
Незадовільно / Fail	0-59

8. Structure of the discipline. Thematic plan of classes (lectures and workshops)

№	Topic	Hours		
		lectures	workshops	Individ. work
1. Theoretical and Methodological Challenges of Social Sciences				
1.	Theoretical and methodological approaches of contemporary social sciences to social problems	2	2	12
2.	Features of contemporary sociological knowledge	2	4	8
2. Contemporary Key Issues of Society				
3.	War and violence as subjects of sociological reflection and contemporary research	2	2	8
4.	Dynamics of social inequality and its contemporary forms	2	2	8
5.	Globalization: opportunities and challenges for the world and Ukraine	2	2	10
6.	Contemporary socio-cultural dynamics, identities, and ethno-cultural issues	2	2	8
7.	Global mobility and migration: implications for contemporary Ukrainian experience	2	2	8
8.	Contemporary risk society and issues of social security	2	2	10
9.	Transformations and issues of contemporary politics and social-political development	2	2	10
	TOTAL	18	20	82

Total course size 120 hours., including:

Lectures – 18 h.

Workshops – 20 h.

Individual work - 82 h.

9. Recommended Reader:

Basic:

1. Bauman, Z. (2000). *Liquid modernity*. Polity Press.
2. Best, J. (2017). *Social problems* (3rd ed.). W. W. Norton & Company.
3. Burawoy, M. (2015). *Public sociology: Between utopia and the discipline*. University of California Press.
4. Connell, R. (2007). *Southern theory: The global dynamics of knowledge in social science*. Polity Press.
5. Giddens, A., & Sutton, P. W. (2021). *Sociology* (9th ed.). Wiley.
6. Touraine, A. (2007). *A new paradigm for understanding today's world*. Polity Press.

Recommended:

1. Appadurai, A. (1996). *Modernity at large: Cultural dimensions of globalization*. University of Minnesota Press.
2. Bauman, Z. (2011). *Collateral damage: Social inequalities in a global age*. Polity.
3. Baralt, L. B., Carian, E., Johnson, A. L., Lim, S., & Yoon, S. Y. (2020). Millennials and gender in an era of growing inequality. *Sociological Perspectives*, 63(3), 452-460. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0731121420915870>
4. Beck, U. (1992). *Risk society: Towards a new modernity*. Sage Publications.
5. Beck, U., & Sznaider, N. (2006). *Unpacking cosmopolitanism for the social sciences: A research agenda*. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 57(1), 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-4446.2006.00001.x>

6. Boccagni, P., & Kivisto, P. (2019). Introduction: Ambivalence and the social processes of immigrant inclusion. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, 60(1–2), 3–13. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020715219835886>.
7. Castles, S. (2007). Twenty-first-century migration as a challenge to sociology. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 33(3), 351–371. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691830701234491>
8. Chen, L. (2020). *A journey of discovering sociology: What sociology is in 20 contemporary American sociologists' eyes*. Springer Singapore.
9. Cheng, I., & Momesso, L. (2019). Rethinking transnationalism in the global world: Contested state, society, border, and the people in between. *International Migration*, 57(4), 197–201. <https://doi.org/10.1111/imig.12594>
10. Collins, C. (2012). *99 to 1: How wealth inequality is wrecking the world and what we can do about it* (pp. 59–124). Berrett-Koehler Publishers.
11. Dahrendorf, R. (2005) Doubts about pluralism. In: E. Ben-Rafael and Y. Sternberg (Eds.) *Comparing Modernities. Pluralism versus Homogeneity*. BRILL Publisher. Pp. 223–229.
12. Davis, M. (Ed.). (2016). *Liquid sociology: Metaphor in Zygmunt Bauman's analysis of modernity*. Routledge.
13. de Haas, H., Castles, S., & Miller, M. J. (2020). *The Age of Migration: International population movements in the modern world* (6th ed.). Guilford Press / Bloomsbury Academic.
14. Douglas, M., & Wildavsky, A. (1983). *Risk and culture: An essay on the selection of technological and environmental dangers*. University of California Press.
15. Hall, S., Massey, D., & Rustin, M. (2013). *After neoliberalism? The Kilburn manifesto*. Lawrence & Wishart.
16. Held, D., & McGrew, A. (2007). *Globalization theory: Approaches and controversies* (2nd ed.). Polity Press.
17. Inglehart, R., & Welzel, C. (2005). *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge University Press.
18. Genov, N. (Ed.). (2008). *Interethnic integration in five European societies*. Kramer.
19. Kittel, B. (2006). A crazy methodology? On limits of macro-quantitative social science research. *International Sociology*, 21(5), 647–677. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0268580906067831>
20. Luhmann, N. (1993). *Risk: A sociological theory*. Walter de Gruyter.
21. Martell, L. (2016). *The sociology of globalization*. Polity.
22. Malešević, S. (2008). The sociology of new wars?: Assessing the causes and objectives of contemporary violent conflicts. *International Political Sociology*, 2(2), 97–112. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-5687.2008.00043>.
23. Malešević, S. (2010). How pacifist were the founding fathers?: War and violence in classical sociology. *European Journal of Social Theory*, 13(2), 193–212.
24. Norris, P. (2022). *In praise of skepticism: Trust but verify*. Oxford University Press.
25. Peter L. Berger and Samuel P. Huntington, eds., *Many Globalizations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).
26. Piketty, T. (2014). *Capital in the twenty-first century* (A. Goldhammer, Trans.). Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
27. Sassen, S. (2007). *A sociology of globalization*. W. W. Norton & Company.
28. Savage, M., & Li, C. (2021). Introduction to thematic series “new sociological perspectives on inequality”. *Journal of Chinese Sociology*, 8, Article 7. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40711-021-00145-y>
29. Scott, J. P. (2005). *Social theory: Central issues in sociology*. Sage.
30. Sztompka, P. (2010) “One Sociology or many?” in *The ISA Handbook of Diverse Sociological Traditions*, edited by S. Patel. London: SAGE. Pp.21–28
31. Sztompka, P. (2011) “Another Sociological Utopia,” *Contemporary Sociology* 40(4): 388–396.
32. Thorsen, L. M. (2020). Art, climate change and (other) eco materials: Rethinking the cosmopolitanization of aesthetics and the aesthetics of cosmopolitanization with Ulrich Beck. *Global Networks*, 20(3), 564–583. <https://doi.org/10.1111/glob.12278>.

33. van Ham, M. (2010). *Ethnicity and integration: Population trends and processes* (Vol. 3). Springer.
34. Vertovec, S. (2009). *Transnationalism*. Routledge.
35. Vertovec, S., & Wessendorf, S. (Eds.). (2010). *The multiculturalism backlash: European discourses, policies and practices*. Routledge.
36. Vertovec, S. (2022). *Superdiversity: Migration and social complexity*. Routledge.
37. Wallerstein, I., Collins, R., Mann, M., Derluguian, G., & Calhoun, C. (2013). *Does capitalism have a future?* Oxford University Press.
38. Wacquant, L. (2009). *Punishing the poor: The neoliberal government of social insecurity*. Duke University Press.
39. Ukraine in Transformation. From Soviet Republic to European Society. \ Veira-Ramos, Alberto, Liubyva, Tetiana, Golovakha, Ievhenii (Eds.) Palgrave. 2020. Pp. 1-34, 261-276.

10. Recommended Internet Sources:

- International Sociological Association congresses <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress>
- Ulrich Beck: 'Europe at Risk: The Cosmopolitan Turn' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L_ksmXh8po&ab_channel=EuropeanUniversityInstitute
- Michael Burawoy Global sociology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ0CZsQcjQ8>
- European Social Survey (the ESS) <http://europeansocialsurvey.org/>
- EuroBarometer http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm
- European Values Study (EVS) <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu>
- UN Human development index <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/>
- Bertelsmann transformation index <http://www.bti-project.org/index/>
- Transparency international Corruption Perception Index <http://www.transparency.org/research/cpi/overview>
- World Bank Governance index http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/sc_country.asp
- Democracy index http://www.democracybarometer.org/links_en.html
- R.Inglehart Happiness is Different Things to Different People: Subjective Well-being in Global Perspective https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1acwqIIFtY&list=PLUold1t9EA7B_nuU-LHirTtdiF9K4Azl0