



COURSE GUIDE



Taras Shevchenko National
University of Kyiv

EC1.11 CURRENT ISSUES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Faculty of Sociology

COURSE INFO

Title	Current Issues in Social Sciences
Code	EC1.11
Field of study	054 Sociology
Degree level	master
Study program	Sociology (language of instruction - English)
Type	elective
Semester	3
ECTS credits	5.00
Language of instruction	English
Final control	exam
Instructor	Dr. Svitlana Babenko

SUMMARY

The content of the course focuses on the research interests of students, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, on the discussion of the most significant thematic issues of international comparative research in sociology. Students will work on the analysis and discussion of recent publications in English-language sociological peer-reviewed journals in order to dive into the most relevant agenda of current academic debates and research findings. Format of classes - colloquia, which combine discussion, lecture, and practical assignments. Students will enrich their professional academic vocabulary of sociological terminology, and develop skills in writing abstracts, discussions, and presentation.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

1. Know English at B1 (intermediate) level, theoretical foundations of sociology, contemporary sociological research projects, sociological approach to the analysis of social phenomena, terminology, conceptual framework and foundations of contemporary sociological theory and research.
2. Be able to work with sociological data, read professional sociological publications and formulate ideas in English.
3. Have basic skills in finding and selecting relevant information in English, use of methodologies and conceptual foundations of sociological analysis; discuss, present and defend one's own standpoint on the issue in question.

COMPETENCES

GC01	Ability to think abstractly, analyze and synthesize
GC04	Ability to work in an international context
SC01	Ability to analyze social phenomena and processes



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COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES			
1.1	Know the findings of contemporary sociological research on key social issues		
1.2	Know the system of basic sociological indicators for the study of quality of life and social problems in contemporary societies		
2.1	Be able to work with social information, sociological research data		
2.2	Be able to identify, analyze and interpret current social problems of society		
3.1	Demonstrate the skills of well-argued presentation of one's own opinion, competent and tolerant discussion with opponents.		
4.1	Demonstrate skills of independent research work, mastering new knowledge		
EVALUATION			
30 points	Participation in class discussions		
10 points	Bibliography annotation		
10 points	Analytical study and its presentation		
10 points	Midterm test		
40 points	Final exam Admission to exam threshold: 36 points		
Grade explication	90-100	Excellent	
	75-89	Good	
	60-74	Satisfactory	
	0-59	Fail	
COURSE STRUCTURE			
CHAPTERS	WORKLOAD (in hours)		
	lectures	seminars	self-study
1. Theoretical and methodological challenges to the social sciences			
1. Sociology and methodological pluralism	2	2	10
2. Debate on quantitative and qualitative methodologies of sociology	2	4	10
2. Current problems of contemporary societies			
3. Dynamics of inequalities: local and global challenges	2	4	10
4. Quality of life, ecology of life, and social relations	2	4	10



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5. Globalization and European integration: challenges to Ukrainian society	2	2	10
6. Social dynamics of culture: problems of multiculturalism	2	2	10
7. Migration, refugees, IDPs, current ethnic issues	0	4	10
8. Social risks, security, terrorism	2	4	10

READINGS

Required

1. *The ISA Handbook of Diverse Sociological Traditions* (2010), edited by S. Patel. London: SAGE.
2. Collins C. 99 to 1: How Wealth Inequality Is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do about It. –BK Publisher. - 2012. – pp.59-124
3. Eduardo Bericat, Maria Luisa Jimenez-Rodrigo (Eds) (2019) The Quality of European Societies A Compilation of Composite Indicators. Springer. Pp. 27-148, 167-250, 295-334, 251-294.
4. *Advances in Sociological Knowledge* (2002) ed, Nikolai Genov

Additional

1. Albrow, Martin (2002). The Global Shift and Its Consequences for Sociology. In: Nikolai Genov (Ed.) *Advances in Sociological Knowledge over Half a Century*. Paris-ISSC. Pp. 25-45.
2. Beck U. Risk Society. Towards a New Modernity. London: SAGE Publications, 1996.
3. *Comparative Research in the Social Sciences*. (Ed.) N.Genov. – Paris-Sofia, 2007. 220 p.
4. Dahrendorf, R. (2005) Doubts about pluralism. In: E. Ben-Rafael and Y. Sternberg (Eds.) *Comparing Modernities. Pluralism versus Homogeneity*. BRILL Publisher. Pp. 223-229.
5. Domenico Tosini Sociology of Terrorism and Counterterrorism: A Social Science Understanding of Terrorist Threat // *Sociology Compass* 1/2 (2007): 664–681,
6. Gerring J. Single-Outcome Studies. A Methodological Primer // *International Sociology*. - September 2006, Vol. 21(5): 707-734
7. Inglehart R. Globalization and Postmodern Values // *The Washington Quarterly* _ Winter 2000 23:1. – pp. 215–228.
8. Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel (2005) *Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1, 2, Conclusion. [CD]
9. *InterEthnic Integration in Five European Societies* (Ed. Nikolai Genov). Berlin: Kramer. 2008.
10. Kittel B. A Crazy Methodology? On Limits of macro-Quantitative Social Science Research // *International Sociology*. - September 2006, Vol. 21(5): 647-677
11. Mills M., Bunt G., Bruijn J. Comparative Research. Persistent Problems and Promising Solutions // *International Sociology*. September 2006, Vol. 21(5): 619-631
12. Peter L. Berger and Samuel P. Huntington, eds., *Many Globalizations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002)

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13. *Pluralism and the Multiple Forms of Modernity. An Interview with S.N. Eisenstadt // European Journal of Social Theory* 7(3): 391–404 [CD]
14. *Ragin Ch. How to Lure Analytic Social Science Out of Doldrums. Some lessons from Comparative Research // International Sociology. - September 2006, Vol. 21(5): 633-646*
15. *Schwartz, S. H. (1994). Beyond Individualism/Collectivism: New cultural dimensions of values. In U. Kim, H.C. Triandis, C. Kagitcibasi, S-C. Choi, & G. Yoon (Eds.), Individualism and collectivism: Theory, method and applications. Newbury Park, CA: Sage. Pp. 85-119. [CD]*
16. *Sztompka, P. (2010) "One Sociology or many?" in The ISA Handbook of Diverse Sociological Traditions, edited by S. Patel. London: SAGE. Pp.21-28*
17. *Sztompka, P. (2011) "Another Sociological Utopia," Contemporary Sociology 40(4): 388-396.*
18. *Tilly J. Means and Ends in Comparison in Macrosociology // Comparative Social Research. Methodological issues in Comparative Social Science. Vol. 16, 1997*
19. *Ukraine in Transformation. From Soviet Republic to European Society. \ Veira-Ramos, Alberto, Liubyva, Tetiana, Golovakha, Ievhenii (Eds.) Palgrave. 2020. Pp. 1-34, 261-276*

Other sources

1. International Sociological Association congresses <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress>
2. Ulrich Beck: 'Europe at Risk: The Cosmopolitan Turn' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L_ksmXh8po&ab_channel=EuropeanUniversityInstitute
3. Michael Burawoy Global sociology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ0CZsQciQ8>
4. European Social Survey (the ESS) <http://europeansocialsurvey.org/>
5. EuroBarometer http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm
6. European Values Study (EVS) <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu>
7. UN Human development index <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/>
8. Bertelsman transformation index <http://www.bti-project.org/index/>
9. Transparency international Corruption Perception Index <http://www.transparency.org/research/cpi/overview>
10. World Bank Governance index http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/sc_country.asp
11. Democracy index http://www.democracybarometer.org/links_en.html
12. R.Inglehart Happiness is Different Things to Different People: Subjective Well-being in Global Perspective https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1acwqllFtY&list=PLUold1t9EA7B_nuU-LHirTtdiF9K4AzlO