

The program reflects the current state of theoretical reflection in sociology. It presents the main theoretical issues of contemporary sociology. It focuses on the models of social world, social relations and the role of the individual in social context. Contemporary social processes are also point of interest. The course covers theories: structural functionalism with Niklas Luhmann's theory of autopoietic social systems theory, interpretative tradition of symbolic interactionism, phenomenological sociology, ethnomethodology and Erving Goffman's perspective. There is a place for rational choice theory. The tradition of critical theory is also a point of study, including not only the contribution of Michael Foucault and Pierre Bourdieu, but gender and post-colonial studies as well. The problem of modernity and post-modernity, as interpreted by Zygmunt Bauman and Anthony Giddens is discussed in the broader frame of history of modernity and historical sociology. In all cases the scope of the course will cover the problem of utility of theories for the empirical questions, in particular their ability to explain social change in twenty-first century.