

ERASMUS

SOCIOLOGY

1	Name of the course	Contemporary Social Theory
2	Name and surname of the lecturer, title / academic degree	Prof Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak
3	Language	angielski
4	Strona WWW	
5	Semestr	Winter and summer
6	ECTS and number of hours	<p>Hours with the participation of an academic teacher:</p> <p>Lecture 30h, 5 ECTS Consultations 5h Total number of hours with the participation of an academic teacher 35h Number of ECTS credits with the participation of an academic teacher 2</p> <p>Non-contact hours (student's own work): Studying literature 50h Preparation to the exam 25h Total number of non-contact hours 75h Number of ECTS points for non-contact hours 3</p> <p>Total number of ECTS points 5</p>
7	Prerequisites	English B2 Basic sociological concepts and basic knowledge of classical social theories are required.
8	Description of the course	<p>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. In all cases the course will cover the problem of application of theories for empirical questions, in particular their ability to explain social change in twenty-first century.</p>
9	Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to sociological theories: concepts, models and theories in social science. 2. Structural functionalism by Talcott Parsons. 3. Robert Merton's middle range theory. 4. Niklas Luhmann's theory of autopoietic social systems. 5. Symbolic interactionism. 6. Alfred Schutz and social construction of reality. 7. Erving Goffman's perspective on everyday life. 8. Rational choice theory. 9. The origins of social conflict: Ralph Dahrendorf and Randall Collins.

		<p>10. Relational thinking in sociology: Pierre Bourdieu and social fields.</p> <p>11-12. Critical approach in sociology: from Foucault to Habermas and Honeth.</p> <p>13. Gender studies.</p> <p>14. Postcolonial studies.</p> <p>15. Grounded theory and Critical Discourse Analysis as research methods powered by theoretical thinking.</p>
10	Literature	<p>Compulsory literature:</p> <p>P. Baert, F. Carreira da Silva. Social Theory in the Twentieth Century and Beyond. Polity 2010</p> <p>Craig Calhoun and others (eds). Contemporary Sociological Theory. Blackwell 2002.</p> <p>Supplementary literature:</p> <p>R. Merton. Unanticipated Consequences of Social Action. "American Sociological Review" vol.1, No.6, 1936.</p> <p>R. Stichweh. Systems Theory. IN: International encyclopedia of political science. 2003.</p> <p>N. Luhmann. Social Systems. Stanford 1995.</p> <p>E. Goffman. Stigma. Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity. Prentice Hall 1963.</p> <p>R. Dahrendorf. Toward a Theory of Social Conflict. The Journal of Conflict Resolution, Vol. 2, No. 2 (1958).</p> <p>P. Berger, N. Luckmann. The Social Construction of Reality. London 1991.</p> <p>B. Glaser, A. Strauss. The Awareness of Dying. 1965.</p> <p>D. Swartz. Culture and Power. Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu. Chicago 1997.</p> <p>J. Butler. Gender trouble. 2006.</p> <p>L. Gandhi. Postcolonial theory. A critical introduction. 1998.</p>
11	Learning outcomes	<p>Knows and understands at an advanced level selected facts, objects and phenomena in the field of sociological sub-disciplines as well as other detailed social issues (K_W02) P6U_W P6S_WG</p> <p>Student can use his/her sociological knowledge in predictable conditions and in conditions requiring non-standard solutions (K_U01) P6U_U P6S_UW</p> <p>Can discuss social issues and critically evaluate the positions of other debaters (K_U06) P6U_U P6S_UK</p>
12	Method of verification of learning outcomes (separately for each effect)	<p>K_W02: discussions based on lectures and assigned texts, final essay.</p> <p>K_U01: discussions based on lectures and assigned texts, final essay.</p> <p>K_U06: discussions based on lectures and assigned texts, final essay.</p>
13	Teaching methods	Lecturing, discussions based on assigned texts.
14	1 Assessment methods 2 Assessment criteria	1. Final essay on a selected topic in the field of contemporary sociological theories.

		2. Assessment criteria: correct use of the literature on the selected topic, consistency and logic of the essay, indication of the applicability of the selected theory, originality of the approach, correctness of style.
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