

Introduction to Sociology

Study programme	YUFE Joint Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies
Academic year	2026/2027
Curriculum component	First year
Year and semester	1st year, semester 1
Course type	Compulsory
ECTS credits	5
Contact hours (L+S+E)	30 + 15 +15
Language of instruction	English

Contact

Course coordinator

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Teaching assistant/associate

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Prerequisites

No requirements.

Course objectives

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the socio-historical emergence of sociology and its foundational theoretical frameworks, including key conceptual dichotomies (e.g., agency and structure, micro and macro levels), major sociological paradigms (functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism), and the contributions of classical theorists such as Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. The course also aims to develop students' ability to critically interpret everyday social phenomena in the context of globalization, social inequality, the digital revolution, and identity, using appropriate sociological perspectives and analytical tools.

Learning outcomes

- Describe the socio-historical context in which sociology emerged.
- Define the foundational themes of classical sociology, with reference to Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. Identify the main differences and complementarities between major sociological paradigms (functionalism, conflict theory,
- and symbolic interactionism) with the focus on key conceptual dichotomies (e.g., Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft, micro and macro levels, agency and structure, etc). Analyse everyday social phenomena using classical and contemporary sociological theories, with a focus on how
- globalization, social inequality, the digital revolution, and identity shape individual and collective experiences in modern society.

Course content

- The Emergence and Development of Sociology: Modernity, the Enlightenment, Romanticism, social and political revolutions. An overview of the development
- of sociology: classical sociology, modern sociology, contemporary sociology.
- The Concept of Society: Mechanical and organic analogies
- Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft
- concepts of system, structure, and culture. The individual and the
- collective
- micro-and macrosociology
- action and structure. Key theoretical dichotomies: subjective and objective, ideal and material, continuity and change,
- facts and values, culture and nature, consensus and conflict. Epistemological and methodological issues in the study of society.
- Culture and Socialization: Theories of socialization. Social identities. Primary and secondary identities. Social interaction and related theories. Social groups
- and organizations. Collective behavior: relative deprivation and resource mobilization.
- Social Inequalities: Different conceptions of equality. Social differentiation and social stratification. Theories of stratification. Ethnic, gender, and global
- stratification. Historical transformations in patterns of stratification.
- Social Institutions: The family, religion, education, economic and political institutions, mass media.
- Social Change: Traditional and modern societies
- science and technology
- digital technology, money and capital
- nations and states. Theories of modernization
- and world-systems theory. Globalization. Social movements, revolutions, and wars. Theories of postmodern society.

Teaching and learning methods

lectures, seminars and workshops and practical classes.

Assessment and grading

The student has met course requirements if she/he has acquired at least 50% of each assessed learning outcome within all assessment forms.

Grading scale

Grade	Percentage
5 (A)	90-100%
4 (B)	75-89.9%
3 (C)	60-74.9%
2 (D)	50-59.9%
1 (F)	0-49.9%