**Course descriptor**

**for the 1st Year of Study**

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| Title of the course | **Sociological Theory (offered in English)** | | |
| Title of the Academic Programme | BA“Sociology and Social Informatics” | | |
| Type of the course | Mandatory | | |
| Prerequisites | Personal and Social Safety | | |
| ECTS workload | 13 | | |
| Total indicative study hours | Directed Study | Self-directed study | Total |
| 176 | 318 | 494 |
| Course Overview | The course is introductory course in sociology. It is organized as discussion of important social issues (inequality, poverty, migration, urban space, religion etc.) with theoretical lenses provided by social theory. The course is divided into four big blocks: (1) social inequality, (2) social institutions, (3) social processes and (2) theoretical perspectives. | | |
| Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) | The main learning outcome of the course is ability to use sociological theory for development of sociological research design. They will also receive an overview of the most influential sociological theories and empirical studies. In addition, students will be able to develop academic skills in reading, writing, and presentation skills. | | |
| Indicative Course Content | Introduction. Social Facts; Poverty; City and Inequality; Urban Institutions and Inequality; Migration, ethnicity, inequality; Education and Inequality; Social stratification. Class and status; Social stratification. Forms of capital; Social stratification. Reputational approach; Inequality and Social Mobility; Elites; Inequality and gender; Inequality and consumption; Family and marriage; State and political institutions; Total and disciplinary institutions; Medical institutions and health; School systems; Religion; Universities and higher education; Art and cultural production; Cultural industries and fashion; Mass Media; Socialization; Civilization; Transformations of sexuality; Revolutions and social movements; Urbanization; Migration and integration; Structural functionalism; Symbolic interactionism; Ethnomethodology; Social networks; Conflict theory; Social capital; Group; Organization; Social action; Institution; Status; Role; Norms; Values; Identity; Trust. | | |
| Teaching and Learning Methods | The course is built as a discussion of textbook and original theoretical and research papers. For each topic students receive assignment in a form of a small seminar project which should be fulfilled in working groups. | | |
| Indicative Assessment Methods and Strategy | The *final grade* for the course is 0,4\*intermediary + 0,4\*accumulated2 + 0,2\*final exam (4 module).  The *intermediary* grade is 0,8 accumulated1 grade + 0,2 intermediary exam (2 module).  The *accumulated1* grade is 0,5 *seminar* grade and 0,5 tests grade in 1-2 modules.  The *accumulated2* grade is 0,5 *seminar* grade and 0,5 *tests* grade in 3-4 modules.  The *seminar* grade is the sum of following activities: students are expected (1) to submit group project paper to a research assistant (0,4 of seminar grade), (2) to present group project during a class (0,4 of seminar grade), (3) to participate in classroom discussions (0,2 of seminar grade).  Individual knowledge is assessed through regular *tests* with open questions (0,5 of accumulated grade).  Students are expected to sit up an intermediary written exam (2nd module) and final exam (4th module) with open questions on the topics covered by the course | | |
| Readings / Indicative Learning Resources | Mandatory  Burawoy M. (2016) The Promise of Sociology: Global Challenges for National Disciplines, in: Vol 50, Issue 5, pp. 949 – 959.  Optional  Giddens A. (2009) Sociology. 6th Edition. Polity Press. 1194p.  Burgess E.W. (2008) The growth of the city: an introduction to a research project, in: Marzluff J.M. et al. (eds) Urban Ecology. Springer, Boston, MA, pp 71-78.  Park R.E. (1925) Community Organization and the Romantic Temper, in: The Journal of Social Forces, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 673-677  Bezdek W. (2009) Groups, in: The Blackwell encyclopedia of sociology Suedfeld P. (2001) Groups, Sociology of, in: International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences  Boudon R. (2001) Action, Theories of Social, in: International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences  Goldthorpe J. & Hope K. (1972) Occupational grading and occupational prestige, in: Social Science Information, vol. 11, 5: pp. 19-38.  Bourdieu, P. (1986) The forms of capital, in J. Richardson J. (Ed.) Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education. New York, Greenwood, pp. 241-258.  Scott. J. (2001) Status and Role: Structural Aspects, in: International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences  Kantzara V. (2009) Status, in: The Blackwell encyclopedia of sociology  McCallion M.J. (2009) Statua Passages, in: The Blackwell encyclopedia of sociology.  Kryshtanovskaya O., White S. (1996) From Soviet nomenklatura to Russian elite, in: Europe-Asia Studies, 711-733.  Hunt S. (2009) Organizations, in: The Blackwell encyclopedia of sociology  Watson T. J. (2001) Organizations, Sociology of, in: International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences  Zorbaugh H.W. (1983) Community institutions and the social agency, in: Zorbaugh H.W. The Gold Coast and the Slum: A Sociological Study of Chicago's Near North Side, pp. 183-200. | | |
| Course Instructor | Maria Safonova, PhD, associate professor, [msafonova@hse.ru](mailto:msafonova@hse.ru) | | |