FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
MAINSTREAM COURSES GUIDE
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SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Course description:

This is the introductory course which covers only the basics of the subject. The students will be advised to find (with the help of the instructor) some available in Cracow literature on Polish culture and society, look around in Poland, and write an essay on some aspects of Polish culture. The course is devoted to the following topics:

1. Modernist and postmodern approach to social and cultural anthropology,
2. Central issues in social and cultural anthropology,
3. Issues in anthropogenesis,
4. Family, marriage and kinship,
5. Gender and society,
6. Age and society,
7. Symbolic systems. Culture and language,
8. Religion and magic,
9. Rituals, myths and legends,
10. Culture and individual,
11. Politics as a subject of anthropology.
12. Social and cultural change,
13. Modern world as a subject of anthropology,
14. Ethnicity as a subject of anthropology,

Key words: traditional cultures; modern cultures; postmodern cultures; Polish culture; ethnicity.

Literature:

• Harris, Marvin. 1985. CULTURE, PEOPLE, NATURE. AN INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL ANTHROPOLOGY. Cambridge et al.: Harper.
MODERN SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

Course description:

The aim of this course is the analysis of modern sociological theories. By modern I mean theories put forward after World War II. The obvious assumption is that the students are familiar with the history of social thought. The topics to be covered are:

1. Modern sociological theories as a continuation of classical theories.
2. Functionalism as a theoretical and methodological orientation in sociology: Talcott Parsons, Robert Merton, Kingsley Davis, Wilbert Moore, Niklas Luhmann.
14. Poststructuralism and postmodernism in social theory.
15. Conclusions.

Key words: functional approaches; conflict theories; interpretative sociologies; structural approach; poststructural sociologies.

Literature:

STATISTICS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES

Course description:

The main goal of this course is to look at science as a method of inquiry – a way of learning and knowing things about the world around us. In attempt to develop generalized understanding, one has to seek to discover the patterns of interrelationships among variables. Very often these interrelationships take a cause-and-effect form. To understand the nature and logic of causation as well as to provide tools for exploring such interrelationships will be possible after learning:

- levels of measurement and forms of data,
- defining variables,
- measuring central tendency,
- measuring dispersion,
- constructing and interpreting contingency tables,
- two-sample ‘t’ test,
- one-way analysis of variance,
- measuring association in contingency tables,
- the chi-square test,
- correlation-regression analysis.

All these theoretical issues will be followed by the practical implementation with the help of SPSS using the ESS (European Social Survey) data base.

Key words: quantitative analysis, variables, contingency tables, inferential statistics.

Literature:

• Earl Babbie; Basics of Social Research; Wadsworth, 1999.
• Chava Frankfort-Nachmias, David Nachmias; Research Methods in the Social Sciences; St. Martin's College Publishing Group 1996.
• Guides for SPSS.
MACRO-SOCIOLOGY

Course description:

The aim of the course is to introduce the basic definitions and theories of macrosociology. The fundamental concepts of social structure will be analyzed, such as political power and its legitimization. The main issues of contemporary society such as social mobility, civil society and gender stratification will also be raised.

1. An introduction to macro-sociology

2. Class and social structure
   P.Blau, 1994, Structural Context of Inequalities, Chicago

3. "Death of class" thesis

4. Conflict and social structure

5. Power and its legitimization

Social Mobility

6. Civilizations

7. Civil Society

8. Gender Stratification


Key words: class and social structure, social mobility, civilizations, civil society, gender stratification
ETHICS

Course description:

The primary purpose of the course is to provide general knowledge of the main ethical theories, such as consequentialist, deontological, axiological or virtue ethics, which have shaped the popular understanding of the subject. The course aims also at discussing the selected problems of applied and professional ethics, including the issues of bioethics, environmental ethics, business ethics, media ethics, and so on. Students shall master the basic vocabulary of ethics and understand its nature. They should be able to analyze both common and extraordinary moral issues, such as the moral aspects of euthanasia, transplantations, problems of social justice, equality, responsibility, and others.

Key words: social justice, responsibility, virtues and vices, morals and religion, bioethics.

Literature:

• Ralph Baergen, Ethics at the End of Life, Wadworth 2001.
FOUNDATIONS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

Course description:

The series of lectures are intended as a basic course in the history of Western philosophy, from the ancient Greek period, through the medieval and modern epochs, the Positivistic period, till the most recent times. Major philosophical trends and concepts will be discussed, as well as their impact on contemporary Western culture. The objective of the course lies in presenting the philosophical tradition of Western culture as well as developing students’ skills of analytical and creative thinking.

The curriculum of the course contains the following issues: (1) Shaping of the Philosophic Mind (the Presocratics, Socrates), (2) Total Philosophical Perspective (Plato and Aristotle), (3) The Classic Concepts of Happiness and Good (Epicurus, the Stoics), (4) Medieval Theocentric Philosophy (St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas), (5) Modern Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz), (6) Modern Empiricism (Bacon, Locke, Berkeley, Hume), (7) Revolution and Synthesis of Modern Philosophy (Kant, Hegel), (8) Positivism and Pragmatism (Comte, Mill, the Vienna Circle, James), (9) Anti-Positivist Reaction (Nietzsche, Bergson), (10) Phenomenology (Husserl, Ingarden), (11) Existentialism (Heidegger, Sartre), (12) Psychoanalysis (Freud, Jung), (13) Christian Personalism (Mounier, Berdyaev, Wojtyla), (14) Hermeneutics (Ricoeur, Gadamer), and (15) Postmodernism (Derrida, Rorty, Baudrillard).

Key words: ontology and epistemology, ancient philosophy, medieval philosophy, modern philosophy, contemporary philosophy

Literature: