

# Course Specifications

From the academic year 2017-2018 up to and including the

## Introduction to Sociology (K001114)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 6.0 Study time 180 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 1) English

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Demanet, Jannick PS04 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences (main subject Communication Studies)</a>	6	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences (main subject Political Sciences)</a>	6	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences (main subject Sociology)</a>	6	A
<a href="#">Joint Section Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences</a>	6	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Institutionalization  
Culture  
Structure  
Stratification  
Deviation  
Social change

Position of the course

Contents

The main objective of this interdisciplinary course is to shed light on the specific nature of the sociological approach in the study of society, social groups, and interaction. We start with an introduction of the sociological approach and the main theoretical frameworks within sociology: functionalism, the conflict perspective, and the action perspectives. Thereafter, we focus on the different levels of social complexity, starting from the macro level (societies and world systems), over the meso level (groups and organizations) and arriving at the micro level (interpersonal interaction). Along the way, we discuss two specific angles from which to study social phenomena: the study of structure and the study of culture. Next, three fundamental processes supporting the construction of social reality are explained: institutionalization, socialization and stratification. In a next part of the course, the whole of these insights is applied to a number of subfields in sociology, such as the study of deviance, and the institutions managing power and religion. We end with establishing the bridge between theory and method, discussing the various sociological perspectives. We go into the question of how these different methodological and theoretical approaches complement each other within the whole of the scientific study of social reality.

Initial competences

none

Final competences

This course imparts knowledge of the main theories within sociology. It teaches how sociology as a science approaches social reality in an analytical fashion. The objective is to pierce through the taken-for-granted-ness of our own social reality.

Relation to the learning outcomes of the programme (Bachelor of Science in the Social Sciences):

- LO1: has an active knowledge of the most important theories, currents and concepts prevailing in the domain of the social sciences.
  - LO2: is familiar with the historical developments that have occurred in the fields of sociology, political sciences and communication sciences over time.
  - LO3: recognises the cross-sections, the intersections and the cross-fertilisations that are noticeable amongst the different social sciences.
  - LO5: knows the historical, political, juridical and socio-economic structures that shape the activities and define the agency of the European political institutions, private and public social organisations and media-organisations.
  - LO12: recognises the multilayered and complex character of social, political and media- related facts and phenomena.
- To have insight into the basic elements of sociological analysis.
  - To have insight into the fundamental processes of social reality and to be able to apply these to the subfields of sociology.
  - To have insight into the paradigms of sociology.
  - To understand in which way different methodological and theoretical approaches complement each other within the whole of the scientific study of social reality.

#### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

#### Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### Teaching methods

Lecture, on-line discussion group, lecture: response lecture

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures and interactive lectures with class discussions, peer-to-peer learning; E-learning, online exercises and mock exam.

#### Learning materials and price

Macionis, J.J., & Plummer, K. (2016). *Sociology. A Global Introduction*. Prentice-Hall: 5th edition

#### References

#### Course content-related study coaching

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

#### Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

#### Extra information on the examination methods

##### **Formative assessment**

- Interactive lectures with group discussion, peer-to-peer learning, and application of theoretical subject matter to everyday examples;
- By making online exercises on the online learning platform, students can monitor their progress with the subject matter. The exercises will be accompanied by feedback. Moreover, a mock exam will appear on the online learning platform in the course of the semester, which is very similar to the real exam. As such, students get insight into the build-up of the final exam and their mastery of the subject matter.

##### **Summative assessment**

- Written exam, questions similar to mock exam. Emphasis will be laid on application and insight, rather than on reproduction of the subject matter.

#### Calculation of the examination mark

The final grade is composed based on the following categories:  
Written Exam determines 100% of the final mark.

Within the Written Exam category, the following assignments need to be completed:

Written Exam with a relative weight of 100 which comprises 100% of the final mark.