

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)  
Credits 6.0 Study time 180 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	English	guided self-study	5.0 h
		lecture: plenary	15.0 h
		exercises	
		lecture	20.0 h
		lecture: response	5.0 h
		lecture	

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 Sociology)</a>	6	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Position of the course

Contents

This course aims to acquaint students with a selection of classical and contemporary views and approaches in cultural sociology. While the topic of 'culture' has been defined in a multitude of ways by different disciplines, cultural sociologists appoint it in its broadest form as 'meaning-making'. Cultural sociologists investigate how meaning-making happens, why meanings vary, how meanings influence human action, and how meaning-making drives cohesion, dominance, and resistance.

The course is built up as follows. After we introduce the topic through the classic writings of Weber and Geertz, the content matter is structured according to the so-called 'building blocks' of cultural sociology: 1) values; 2) repertoires; 3) narratives and discourse; 4) frames and boundaries, where we start from symbolic interactionism, social constructionism and ethnomethodology, to end up in symbolic boundaries theory; 5) arts and cultural capital, where we delve into the sociology of culture, stopping both at the production and the consumption side of culture. Throughout the course, there is both attention to the original theoretical texts as to recent empirical studies that refine classical ideas. This course predominantly takes on an interactive format, with students engaging in moderated classroom discussions.

Initial competences

Final competences

Upon completion of this course, students will have learned the following competencies

1. To have insight in classical and contemporary sociological thinking about culture
2. To be able to process sociological explanations about culture independently
3. To be able to critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of classic and contemporary sociological accounts of culture
4. To be able to apply sociological explanations about culture to concrete real-world case studies
5. To be able to develop a sound argumentation in discussions revolving around the concept of culture and its impact on actions

More specifically, the course addresses the following program objectives:

- 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.
- LO6: can formulate a valid scientific research question on a topic that relates to the social sciences.
- LO7: can identify, gather and critically process the relevant sources and literature on a specific social sciences research topic.
- LO10: masters the techniques of good and accurate research reporting in oral and written form.
- LO11: has an investigative, problem-oriented and critical attitude towards social, political and media-related phenomena and scientific research results with regard thereof.
- LO12: recognises the multilayered and complex character of social, political and media-related facts and phenomena.
- LO13: reflects and evaluates his or her learning process and results critically.
- LR14: acts in a professional and responsible manner.
- LO15: is able to perform teamwork, he or she possesses good communicative skills and is solution-oriented.
- LO16: prioritises scientific integrity and honesty in his or her scientific research activities.
- LO17: approaches dominant tendencies within the social and the policy domain in a critical manner.
- LO18: has awareness of the social role and function of social scientists.

#### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture, lecture: plenary exercises, lecture: response lecture

#### Learning materials and price

Digital reader, specific content to be communicated at the start of classes

#### References

#### Course content-related study coaching

#### Evaluation methods

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

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

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. Students will process scientific texts before coming to class, and their questions, discussion points, and comments will be used as input for interactive lectures, forming the basis for the group discussion, peer-to-peer learning, and application of the subject matter to everyday examples.

##### *Summative assessment*

-Oral exam (100% total mark). The oral exam assesses whether students can explain the theoretical approaches in their own words, whether they can compare them and discuss them in a critical manner, and apply them to new case studies.

#### Calculation of the examination mark

