

Sociology of modernity and modernization

The course seeks to elucidate and explore the key concepts that have evolved within the framework of the sociology of modernity and modernization since their emergence in post-World War II Western academic community and till present days. The course critically examines major scientific research programs/paradigms / schools of thought associated with thinking on modernity and modernization. The course is also seeking to juxtapose and compare major theories in this field. The course is attempting to emphasize the relevancy of theories of modernity and modernization for sociological analysis of Leninist and post-Leninist societies in comparative-historical perspective and Ukraine in particular.

The course analyzes prospects of the development of modern world-system, interplay between forces of modernization and westernization, preconditions of the emergence of a developmental state. The course thoroughly examines how these concepts can be applied to the case of Ukrainian post-Leninist transformation.

Students are supposed to get knowledge about background assumptions of contemporary theories of modernity and modernization and related disciplines (political science, comparative-historical political sociology).

Students should be able to employ conceptual apparatuses developed by different traditions within sociology of modernity and modernization for the sake of historical and theoretical analysis. They also should get to know major work of key representatives of the sociology of modernity and modernization.

The course is drawing upon vast academic literature authored mostly by Western scholars.