



# Contemporary Sociological Theories

## Syllabus

### Details of the discipline

Level of Higher Education	Second (Master's) level
Field of Knowledge	05 - social and behavioral sciences
Speciality	054 Sociology
Educational Program	Conflict Resolution and Mediation
Status of Discipline	Elective Course
Form of Learning	Full-time/Distance Learning
Year of Education, Semester	1 year, spring semester
ECTS	4 credits
Form of Control	Test
Schedule	One Lecture and Two Practical Classes per week
Language	English
Information about course leader / teachers	Lecturer: Professor, doctor of sociological sciences Pavlo Fedorchenko-Kutuev, e-mail: p.kutuev@gmail.com Practical Classes: Professor, doctor of sociological sciences Pavlo Fedorchenko-Kutuev, e-mail: p.kutuev@gmail.com
Course placement	

### Outline of the discipline

#### 1. Description of the discipline, its aims, subject of study and learning outcomes

The purpose of teaching the credit module "Contemporary sociological theories" is to develop students' abilities as future professionals:

1. Analyze contemporary sociological theories;
2. Analyze their conceptual and categorical apparatus;
3. Employ concepts of the contemporary sociological in professional activities.

According to the requirements of the educational program, students after mastering the credit module must demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge of:

1. The main research programs of the latest sociological theories;
2. Methodological assumption of contemporary sociological theories;
3. Classification of concepts of contemporary sociological theories;
4. Connection of the latest sociological theories with other levels of theorizing and other social sciences (political science, economic theory);

## 5. Features of application of the newest sociological theories in a society.

skills:

1. Use theoretical knowledge to understand the social dynamics caused by radical social changes;
2. Evaluate existing research programs in the contemporary sociological theories;
3. Identify and analyze the contemporary sociological theories in two main dimensions of modern society and conflicts that arise in the process of formation of capitalism and during the formation of the nation state;
4. Select effective methods for predicting the development of specific research programs in the contemporary sociological theories;
5. take into account the contemporary sociological theories in their professional activities.

Experience of :

1. The analysis of basic concepts and methodology of contemporary sociological theories;
2. The analysis of the conceptual and categorical apparatus and the use of the concept of the contemporary sociological theories in professional activities.

## 2. Prerequisites of the discipline (place in the structural and logical scheme of education according to the relevant educational program)

*This course is based on students' knowledge of the courses "History of Sociology", "Modern Sociological Theories", "Sociology of Modernity and Modernization". The knowledge acquired by students within the course "Contemporary Sociological Theories" can be used not only in the study of specialized disciplines ("Sociological Theories of Conflict and War in the Context of Transformation and Modernization", etc.), but also in practice conducting sociological research and professional activities.*

## 3. The content of the discipline

List of topics

- Topic 1. Origins of sociological discourse: a new genealogy.*
- Topic 2. Sociological theory after the Second World War, philosophy of science and prerequisites for the synthesis of classical thought in contemporary sociological theory.*
- Topic 3. Richard Munich as an interpreter of T. Parsons and a theorist of modernity.*
- Topic 4. From neofunctionalism to cultural sociology: the intellectual trajectory of Jeffrey Alexander.*
- Topic 5. Max Weber's sociology, Weber's renaissance and modern socio-political transformations.*
- Topic 6. Marxism, critical theory and contemporary interpretations of Marxism.*
- Topic 7. Historical macrosociology today: theoretical breakthroughs and syntheses.*
- Topic 8. Sociological theories of nationalism: Benedict Anderson and Ernest Gellner.*
- Topic 9. Sociological theories of multiple modernities.*

## 4. Training materials and resources

1. Alexander J., Kolomy P. Neofunctionalism today: restoring the theoretical tradition / Alexander J., Kolomy P. // *Sociol. research.* - 1992. - № 10. - P.112-119.
2. Anderson B. *Imaginary communities* / Anderson B. - K.: Krytyka, 2001. - 272 p.
- Wallerstein I. *After liberalism* / Wallerstein I. - M.: Editorial URSS, 2003. - P. 109-122.
3. Habermas Y. *Structural transformations in the field of openness: A study of the category of civil society* / Habermas Y. - Lviv: Chronicle, 2000. - 318 p.

4. Gellner E. *Nations and nationalism; Nationalism* / Gellner E. - K.: Tucson, 2003. - 300 p.
  5. Derluguian G. *Secret Bourdieu's admirer in the Caucasus: World-systems biography* / Derluguian G. - Moscow: *The territory of the future*, 2010. - 560 p.
- Additional:*
6. Derluguian G. *How this world works. Outlines on macrosociological topics* / Derluguian G. - Moscow: *Gaidar Institute Publishing House*, 2013. - 384 p.
  7. Zarin VA *West and East in the world history of the XIV-XIX centuries.* / Zarin VA - M.: Nauka, 1991.
  8. Inozemtsev VL *Limits of "catching up"* / Inozemtsev VL - M.: *Economics*, 2000. - P. 5-12.
  9. Inozemtsev VL *Split civilization: Existing preconditions and possible consequences of the post-economic revolution* / Inozemtsev VL - M., 1999. - 703 p.
  10. Kutuev PV *Two versions of T. Parsons' sociology: R. Munch and J. Alexander. Article 2. Neo-functional research program of J. Alexander* / Kutuev PV // *Philosophical and sociological thought.* - 1993. - № 9/10. - P. 48-71.
  11. Kutuev PV *Two versions of T. Parsons' sociology: R. Munch and J. Alexander. Article 1. Interpretation from the Kantian perspective of R. Munich* / Kutuev PV // *Philosophical and sociological thought.* - 1993. - № 7/8. - P. 29-52.
  12. Kutuev PV *Classical sociology and modern social theory* / Kutuev PV // *Philosophical and sociological thought.* - 1995. - № 1/2. - P. 68-87.
  13. Kutuev PV *Concepts of development and modernization: evolution of research programs of sociological discourse* / Kutuev PV - K.: *Сталь*, 2005. - 500 с.
  14. Kutuev PV *New sociological theories: a textbook* / Kutuev PV - K.: *Published by NPU. MPDragomanova*, 2012. - 292 p.
  15. Kutuev PV *Sociological theories of modernization in the 50-60s of the twentieth century: Textbook manual.* - K.: *Сталь*, 2007. - 131 с.
  16. Hobsbawm E. *The age of empire. 1875-1914* / Hobsbaum E. - Rostov-on-Don: *Phoenix*, 1990. - 542 p.
  17. Shporlyuk R. *Communism and nationalism. Karl Marx against Friedrich Liszt* / Shporlyuk R. - K.: *Fundamentals*, 1998. - 480 p.
  18. Alexander J.C. *Analytical Debates: Understanding the Relative Autonomy of Culture* / Alexander J.C. // *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debate.* - Cambridge: *Cambridge University Press*, 1990. - P.1-27.
  19. Eisenstadt SN, Schluchter W. *Introduction: Paths to Early Modernities* / Eisenstadt SN, Schluchter W. // *Deadalus.* - 1998. - Vol. 127. - № 3. - P. 1-18.

#### *Information resources*

Access mode: <http://www.sociology.kpi.ua/literature> - Department of Sociology, Igor Sikorsky KPI Сюди ще сайти інститута соціології НАНУ журналу соціологія теорія методи маркетинг Та нашого вісника

### **Educational content**

#### **5. Methods of mastering the discipline (educational component)**

##### **Lectures and Seminars**

#### **Topic 1: Origins of sociological discourse: a new genealogy.**

*Main questions: Intellectual origins of sociology: Sieyès and Quetelet. The ideological context of the dynamics of sociological theories: the Cold War and the clash of powers. Sociological theories and political and economic practice.*

*Independent work of student: A New Historiography of the Origin of Sociological Discourse from the Enlightenment to the Present. Contemporary sociological theories and ideologies. The latest sociological theories: the state and public policy.*

**Topic 2: Sociological theory after the Second World War, philosophy of science and prerequisites for the synthesis of classics in modern sociological theory**

*Main issues: Methodological principles of logical positivism and sociology. The role of philosophy of science in the discourse of contemporary sociological theories. Principles of methodology of research programs and their application in historical and sociological analysis. Problems of micro- and macro- in theoretical sociology. Centrality of classics and discourse of modern sociology. The concept of interpenetration in classical sociology and modern sociological theories.*

*Independent work of student: Transformations and continuity of the positivist approach in sociological theorizing. From logical positivism to postpositivism. Classical sociology and modern sociological theories.*

**Topic 3: Richard Munich as an interpreter of T. Parsons and a theorist of modernity.**

*Main questions: Theoretical synthesis or eclecticism: "R. Munich's theories of action". I. Kant's philosophy and theoretical sociology: from M. Weber to T. Parsons. Sociological theory of T. Parsons and its Kantian roots. Parsons' idea of continuity: theoretical breakthrough or lack of development? Conceptualization of modernity by R. Munich.*

*Independent work of student: T. Parsons' Kantian core of sociology and contemporary sociological theories. R. Munich: reconstruction of classical sociology as a theory building. Weberization of Parsonian sociology by R. Munich.*

**Topic 4: From neofunctionalism to cultural sociology: the intellectual trajectory of J. Alexander.**

*Main questions: Two versions of neofunctionalism: J. Alexander and R. Munich. The concept of differentiation as the basis of J. Alexander's reconstruction of Parsonian sociology and neo-functional research program. Neofunctionalism in the context of the dichotomy "modern versus postmodern". From T. Parsons to E. Durkheim: cultural sociology of J. Alexander.*

*Independent work of student: Theoretical logic in the sociology of J. Alexander as a reconstruction of classical theory. The concept of social differentiation: yesterday and today. From Parsonian neofunctionalism to Durkheim's cultural sociology.*

**Topic 5: Weber's sociology, Weber's renaissance and modern socio-political transformations.**

*Main questions: Weber's sociology of religion and social transformation: post-Leninist societies in a comparative-historical perspective. "Protestant ethics" and historical reality. Richard Munich: "Neo-Parsonian" versus "Weberian". M. Weber's political sociology and political realities of the modern world-system: neopatrimonialism and leadership in global dimensions. Weber's typology of capitalisms and the future of capitalism.*

*Independent work of student: Religion and Economic Behavior and Development. The global revival of neopatrimonialism in the world of politics. Max Weber's sociology of capitalisms and modern socio-economic realities of modernism and world system.*

**Topic 6: Marxism, critical theory and modern interpretations of Marxism.**

*Main questions: Variations of (neo)Marxist discourse in contemporary sociological theories. The public sphere between communicative rationality and public sociology. Marxism as a progressive research program: Burawoy's interpretation.*

*Independent work of student: Marxism, neo-Marxism and contemporary sociological theories. Marxist contemporary sociological theories between the public sphere and class conflict.*

**Topic 7: Historical macrosociology today: theoretical breakthroughs and syntheses.**

*Main questions: Contemporary sociological theories: the dimension of historical microsociology. Key figures of historical microsociology: F. Braudel, I. Wallerstein, R. Collins. G. Derluigian as a historical sociologist of post-Leninist and global transformations.*

*Independent work of student: Intellectual sources of contemporary historical sociological theories. Interpretation of the modern world-system from the standpoint of contemporary theories of historical sociology: capitalism and empire.*

**Topic 8: Sociological theories of nationalism: B. Anderson and E. Gellner.**

*Main questions: The modern state as the initiator of nation building. Historical trajectories of nation formation. Marxism and nationalism.*

*Independent work of student: Nationalism as a cultural and ideological program of modernism. Historical sociology of empires and nations.*

**Topic 9: Sociological theories of numerous modernists.**

*Main questions: From the uniqueness of the Western and exemplary modernity to pluralism of multiple modernities. Intellectual origins of the research program of multiple modernities. The uniqueness of the West or a historical chance? Contemporary sociological theory between Eurocentrism and are-Orientation. S. N. Eisenstadt and sociological theorizing about multiple modernities.*

*Independent work of student: Eurocentric tradition in sociological theorizing. Alternatives to Eurocentrism in contemporary sociological theories: Re-Orientation and multiple modernities.*

**6. Independent work of student**

*There are no topics for self-study.*

**Policy and control**

**7. Course policy (educational component)**

***Class attendance***

*Attendance of lectures and seminars is mandatory.*

***Evaluation control measures missed***

*The missed modular test can be rewritten, but until the time of the intermediate certification, taking into account the time required by the instructor to test the work. Missed express quizzes can't be retaken.*

***Procedure for appealing the results of tests***

*Students have the opportunity to raise any issue related to the control procedure and expect it to be addressed according to the university procedures. To appeal against the grade, the student must submit a statement stating the reason for the appeal, the facts of the instructor's bias. The instructor should discuss this statement with the student in person at the consultation. In case if the dispute is not resolved of lack of understanding on the result of the control measure, a commission made up of the department is formed, which evaluates the procedure of the control measure and the student's claim. The Commission may decide to re-examine or reject the appeal. The decision of the commission is final and not subject to appeal.*

***Calendar boundary control***

*Midterm attestation of students (hereinafter - attestation) is a calendar boundary control. The purpose of the certification is to improve the quality of student learning and monitor the implementation of the schedule of the educational process by students.*

At the first intermediate attestation, a student receives a "credit" if his / her current rating at the time of attestation is 30 or more points.

At the second intermediate attestation, a student receives a "credit" if his / her current rating at the time of attestation is 60 or more points. If this indicator does not meet the requirements, it is set "not certified". Practice of "non-certification" is carried out in consultation with the instructor by providing oral answers to questions based on material that student had not exhibited the profound knowledge of previously.

### **Academic integrity**

The policy and principles of academic integrity are defined in Section 3 of the Code of Honor of the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute". Details: <https://kpi.ua/code>.

### **8. Types of control and rating system for evaluation of learning outcomes (RSE)**

<i>No</i>	<i>Evaluation control measure</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	<i>Presentations at seminars</i>	20	5	6	30
2.	<i>Participation in seminar discussion seminars</i>	15	4	5	20
3.	<i>Express control at lectures</i>	10	5	4	20
4.	<i>Modular control work (MKR)</i>	20	20	1	20
5.	<i>Encouragement points</i>	10	10	1	10
	<i>Total</i>				100

Table of correspondence of rating points to grades on the university scale:

<i>Scores</i>	<i>Mark</i>
100-95	<i>Excellent</i>
94-85	<i>Very good</i>
84-75	<i>Fine</i>
74-65	<i>Satisfactorily</i>
64-60	<i>Enough</i>
<i>Less than 60</i>	<i>Not allowed</i>
<i>Admission conditions are not met</i>	<i>Not allowed</i>

### **9. Additional information on the discipline (educational component)**

Classes within the course "Contemporary Sociological Theories" are conducted in the form of lectures and seminars. During lectures, the lecturer formulates the background assumptions of theories, formulates key concepts, comes up with examples. Lectures take the form of a dialogue, when the instructor asks students questions about the teaching material, may ask to give an immediate answer to the current topic being discussed in the class, or the material of previous classes.

The student's independent work is designed to prepare questions for seminars, analysis of sources. The instructor makes suggestions as to what relevant literature to discuss. The main form of activity during seminars is an oral report that aims at developing the communicative abilities of the student combined with the demonstration and consolidation of the knowledge of the topic. The instructor evaluates both the depth, breadth, accuracy of definitions during the student's speech, the ability to

respond to questions from the audience. During the seminar, students' activity in formulating questions, participating in discussions, formulating alternative hypotheses, the ability to refer to theoretical positions and critically evaluate existing theories and practices is additionally assessed.

**Working program of the discipline (syllabus):**

Prepared by Pavlo Fedorchenko-Kutuev, doctor of sociological sciences, professor, chair of the Department of sociology

Approved at the department of sociology meeting (protocol № 10 від 08.04.2023 )

Approved by the Methodical Council (protocol № 8 від 02.06.2023)