



Syllabus Course Program



Theoretical sociology of the XXI century

Specialty

054 – Sociology

Institute

Institute of Socio-Humanitarian Technologies

Educational program

Sociological support of economic activity

Department

Department of Sociology and Public Administration (305)

Level of education

Master's level

Course type

Special (professional), Mandatory

Semester

1

Language of instruction

English, Ukrainian

Lecturers and course developers



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Doctor of Sociology, Professor, Professor of the Department of Sociology and Public Administration (NTU "KhPI")

Author of more than 300 scientific and educational publications. Leading lecturer in the courses: "Sociology of Internet Communications", "Academic English", "Theory of Information Society", "Social Communications in a Global Society", "Business Communications".

[More about the lecturer on the department's website](https://web.kpi.kharkov.ua/sp/goroshko-olena-igorivna/)

<https://web.kpi.kharkov.ua/sp/goroshko-olena-igorivna/>

General information

Summary

The course covers issues related to the theoretical directions of modern sociology, in particular the postmodern sociology. During its study, students get acquainted with the theoretical approaches that determined the paradigmatic face of sociology in the second half of the 20th century and the first decades of the 21st century. During the course, special attention is paid to work with original works: Students learn to work with scientific texts, abstract, select literature, and express their own opinions.

Course objectives and goals

The purpose of the discipline: familiarization of future specialists in sociology with the main theoretical paradigms, schools and directions of sociological reflection of modern social reality, ideas of outstanding sociologists of the last quarter of the 20th century - the first quarter of the 21st century)

Format of classes

Lectures, practical classes, independent work, consultations. The final control includes exam

Competencies

GC01. Ability for abstract thinking, analysis and synthesis.

SC01. Ability to analyze social phenomena and processes. SC02. Ability to detect, diagnose and interpret social problems of Ukrainian society and the global community.
SC03. Ability to design and fulfill sociologic research, to develop and substantiate their methodology.
SC04. Ability to collect and analyze empirical data with the use of present-day sociologic research methods and digital technologies

Learning outcomes

PR01. To analyze social phenomena and processes using empirical data and present-day concepts and theories in sociology.
PR02. To perform diagnostics and interpretation of social problems of Ukrainian society and the global community, of the causes for their arising and their consequences
PR06. Co communicate fluently in oral speech and writing in Ukrainian and a foreign language when discussing professional issues, research and innovations in the field of sociology and conterminal sciences, including the context of cooperation with European and Euro-Atlantic institutions
PR08. To deliver in a clear and unambiguous way one's own conclusions and argumentation concerning sociology and adjacent fields of knowledge to specialists and non-specialists, particularly to students.
PR09. To plan and carry out scientific research in the field of sociology, to analyze its outcomes and substantiate the conclusions

Student workload

The total volume of the discipline is 120 hours (4 ECTS credits): lectures - 32 hours, practical classes - 16 hours, independent work - 72 hours

Course prerequisites

To successfully complete the course, students must have knowledge and practical skills in the following disciplines: History of Sociology, Modern Sociological Theories. English proficiency level - B2 ESP

Features of the course, teaching and learning methods, and technologies

Lectures are conducted interactively with the use of multimedia technologies. Practical classes use a project-based approach to learning, game methods, and focus on application of information technology in the English-speaking professional environment. Lecturing materials are available to students through Google Disk Drive and LMS (learning management systems). During lectures on the discipline, the following teaching methods are also used: explanatory and illustrative method (demonstration of presentation slides, visualization of educational material on the screen); method of problematic presentation; partially search, or heuristic method (lectures on certain topics are taught in a problematic form).
Practical classes - conducted in the form of seminars. For seminar classes, students work on lecture material, prepare speeches using educational and scientific literature, and make presentations. The lecturer evaluates the students' activity during the seminar according to the accepted grading scale. During the seminar, the level of students' knowledge is assessed for each topic using test tasks and written independent work to determine their knowledge of the basic concepts on the topic

Program of the course

Topics of the lectures

TOPIC 1. Postmodern sociology as a reflection of socio-cultural dynamics

Typology of societies and the place of the postmodern period in it. Criterion principles of typology of societies. Periodization of the development of sociological thought. Characteristics of the postmodern period and its specific features. Meaningful features of society with signs of belonging to the post-industrial (post-modern) society. The main aspects of the postmodern situation cover political, social, cultural and economic construals. The need for new sociological knowledge in postmodern conditions. Sociological representation as a factor in the development of sociological views of the postmodern period.

TOPIC 2. Modern as a preliminary stage of social development and the basis of the postmodern period

Periodization of modernism as a stage of social development. Primary, new and radical modernity. Metaparadigms of the modern period: interpretive, integral, reflexive. Modern as actual modernity. Features of radical modernism. Characteristics of the period of radical modernism. Views of E. Giddens on the main features of the radical phase of modernism. Pluralism of sociological views on the situations of transition from modern to postmodern. Globalization of public space in the modern period. The growth of a dynamic factor in the development of society. Risks of social development in the modern period.

TOPIC 3. Typology of postmodern sociological theories and its main issues

The criterion principles for distinguishing certain types of theoretical understanding of the postmodern social phenomenon. Typology of postmodern theories in sociology. The emergence of theoretical constructions for understanding the postmodern situation. General features of postmodernism as a state of development of human society. The main differences between the theoretical positions of "typical postmodernists" and "postmodern manifestors" and "anti-modern deconstructivists" and "thematic conceptualists".

Poststructuralism as a universal sign of belonging to postmodernism. A critical attitude to the developments of modernism. Anti-identification and deconstruction as characteristic features of postmodern theoretical concepts. Sociological meaningfulness as an indicator of postmodern belonging. The specifics of sociological theorizing in postmodern conditions. The main problems of the postmodern period and the possibilities of their solution by the efforts of sociological science.

TOPIC 4. Declaration of postmodernism in the writings by J.-F. Lyotard

The state of postmodernity according to Jean-Francois Lyotard as a crisis of metanarratives. General features of the theoretical work of J.F. Lyotard. Metanarratives and their varieties. Loss of trust in metanarratives and the consequences of this situation.

The place of educational problems in the theoretical works by J. F. Lyotard.

The theoretical model of the modern higher school according to J. F. Lyotard: The postmodern concept of education. Lyotard's paradox and his vision of the role of competencies.

Consequences of processes of technocratization of education for Tertiary.

Legitimation of knowledge as a problem of modern social development

The idea of J.F. Lyotard on the "archeology of knowledge".

TOPIC 5. Poststructuralism by M. Foucault and deconstructivism by J. Derrida

Michel Foucault's poststructuralism as an intellectual premise of postmodern concepts. Historical subconscious by M. Foucault as an outstanding representative of poststructuralism.

The significance of "archaeological excavations" of human knowledge according to M. Foucault. Three bridges and the meaning of M. Foucault's idea about the "genealogy of power".

Jacques Derrida as the founder of the direction of deconstructivism in modern social science. The essence of deconstructivism according to J. Derrida.

Social and political subconscious in scientific developments G. Deleuze and F. Guattari. Types of philosophers from antiquity to the present: Gilles' vision Deleuze.

TOPIC 6. The futurological direction of postmodernism in the works by J. Naisbitt

"Megatrends" by John Naisbitt - the main trends in the development of modern society. Forecasts of the future, as the implementation of megatrends of social development.

Modern society is a form of incomplete transition from industrial society to information society. Naisbitt about the future that is already in the present. The essence of the megatrend associated with the departure from the position of a self-sufficient economic system. The meaning of the term "megatrend". The content of the concept of "information economy" according to J. Naisbitt. Management models that provide advantages in the context of megatrends by J. Naisbitt. The transition to the production and distribution of information as a characteristic of the level of social development.

The role of the state in ensuring the transition to the information society.

TOPIC 7. A. Toffler's "third wave" society - the development of the futurological trend in postmodern sociology

A. Toffler on the super-industrial society and the role of knowledge in it.

The "third wave" society is an information society.

The role of knowledge in modern society. The specifics of A. Toffler's approach to the analysis of human history. The definitions and description of agrarian, industrial and super-industrial civilizations. Consequences and manifestations of the arrival of the "third wave" of civilizational changes. Changes in ideas about property in the "information" era. The main resource of "third wave" societies according to A. Toffler. Basic provisions of A. Toffler regarding the problem of power in society. Source of power according to A. Toffler. Social order as the purpose of state functioning. The foundations of the social order that the state is called to create. The meaning of the concept of "profitable" order according to A. Toffler.

TOPIC 8. Management and world order in the 21st century: F. Fukuyama's concept of a strong state

The relevance of the problem of a strong state in the modern period of social development. A strong state in the modern period of social development: the main factors of actualization. The combination of spheres of state influence and the strength of state power (its bodies) in a strong state (according to F. Fukuyama). Main aspects of modern statehood according to Fukuyama. Manifestation of signs of statehood in weak states and ways to overcome them. Competences of state bodies in strong and weak states. Decentralization of power in society as a tool of public administration. Forms of decentralization processes in Ukrainian society. Cautions against using decentralization processes.

TOPIC 9. Baudrillard's postmodern views on society

Baudrillard's "anti-social" theory. "The end of the social" according to J. Baudrillard. Simulacra as a phenomenon of modern social life. Their essence and content. Modern society is a "consumer society". Simulations in modern society according to J. Baudrillard: purpose, tasks, are they solved and who (which social strata) is behind it? Social order for total simulation or artificial revival of reality. Stratification in consumer society? Replacement of consumer value with symbolic value and the danger of consuming symbols and signs. The symbolism of exchange as a basis for distinguishing by J. Baudrillard the stages of civilization in the history of mankind. The content of the concept of "hyperreality". The use of simulacra and simulations in modern social practice. The reality of the phenomena of Ukrainian simulacra.

TOPIC 10. Postmodernist views of A. Turen on society and conflicts in it

Post-industrial society through the eyes of Alain Turen. "Programmed society" according to A. Turen. Distinguishing features of a programmed society from a capitalist industrialized society (according to A. Turen). The main components of the conflict spectrum of modern society. The content of the main social conflict in the post-industrial society according to A. Turen. Prospects for understanding social conflict in modern society. The past and prospects of the influence of social classes on the development of social conflicts (on the example of the working class and the labor movement). A. Turen on the main forms of social dominance. Turenne's ideas about the rejection of economic determinism and the priority of the industrial sphere and conflicts related to it, as a basis for an adequate understanding of the essence of post-industrial society.

TOPIC 11. Postmodernist approaches of Zygmunt Bauman and Immanuel Wallstein to the study of the problems of social development

Multidisciplinarity of social knowledge. Differentiation and specialization of humanitarian knowledge. The main features of postmodernism according to Z. Bauman. The concept of "mentality" as basic for defining the difference between modern and postmodern. Vision of morality in postmodern society according to Z. Bauman. A response to the challenges of the postmodern period of society's development through the "sociologizing" of natural and humanitarian knowledge. Reflection of modernity in I. Wallstein's postmodern concepts. Wallerstein's world-system analysis: Conditions of its application for diagnosing the state of society and the surrounding environment. I. Wallerstein on multidisciplinary discourse regarding modern social life.

TOPIC 12. Theories of global development. Ulrich Beck on the "risk" society

Globalism as a social problem. The main trends of globalization. "Cosmopolitanization" and "metamorphosis" as the main trends of globalization processes. Basic conceptual approaches to the study of issues related to globalization. U. Beck's theory of "risk" society. The possibility of extrapolation of U. Beck's ideas to the processes of researching problems of the development of Ukrainian society. Global threats as a stimulus for cosmopolitan solutions and the generation of new global norms. "Metamorphosis" according to Ulrich Beck,

as hidden side effects of global risks. Social metabolism as a global risk and "production of a new reality" due to the strengthening of the effects of migration in the world

Topics of the workshops

Content module No. 1. Postmodernism and the need for the formation of new sociological knowledge. The class is devoted to the study of topical issues of the formation of the postmodern paradigm in modern society. The difference between the state of modernity and postmodernity is analyzed. Prerequisites for its formation and main features. Classifications of the main methodological approaches and views of scientists on postmodern ideas are determined.

TOPIC 1. Postmodern sociology as a reflection of socio-cultural dynamics

- 1. The main types of societies. Typification criteria.*
- 2. Specificity of the postmodern period of development of sociological knowledge.*
- 3. Features of society with signs of belonging to the post-industrial (post-modern) society.*
- 4. Periodization of modernism as a stage of social development.*
- 5. Metaparadigms of the modern period. Interpretive, integral, reflective.*
- 6. Views of E. Giddens on the main features of the radical phase of modernism*

Question for discussion:

- 1. The main characteristics of the postmodern period.*
- 2. What are the aspects of the postmodern situation - political, social, cultural and economic?*
- 3. Is it possible to combine processes that determine different aspects of the postmodern situation.*
- 4. In connection with what arises the need to update sociological knowledge?*
- 5. Modern as actual modernity.*
- 6. How can the modern situation differ from the postmodern situation?*
- 7. The growth of a dynamic factor in the development of society*

TOPIC 2. Typology sociological the theory of postmodernism and its main problems

- 1. Criteria for typification of samples of theoretical understanding by sociologists of postmodern social reality.*
- 2. New sociological knowledge as a response to today's challenges.*
- 3. Specific features of new sociological constructs in postmodern conditions.*
- 4. The place and role of sociological science in solving the problems of the development of society in the postmodern period.*

Question for discussion:

- 1. General features of postmodernism as a state of development of human society.*
- 2. Poststructuralism as a universal sign of belonging to postmodernism.*
- 3. Anti-identification and deconstruction as characteristic features of postmodern theoretical concepts.*
- 4. What is the need for the emergence of theoretical constructions for understanding the postmodern situation?*
- 5. Critical attitude to the developments of modernism. What does it consist of?*

TOPIC 3. Declaration of postmodernism in the writings of J.F. Lyotard

- 1. The state of postmodernity according to Jean-Francois Lyotard as a crisis of metanarratives.*
- 2. The place of educational problems in the theoretical researches of J.F. Lyotard.*
- 3. The theoretical model of the modern higher school: the postmodern concept of education according to J.-F. by Lyotard.*
- 4. Legitimation of knowledge as a problem of modern social development.*

Question for discussion

- 1. The model of the higher school: the postmodern concept of education according to J.-F. Lyotard.*
- 2. What does the loss of trust in metanarratives lead to?*
- 3. What is Lyotard's "paradox"?*

Lyotard mean by the decree when he claimed that humanities students are unaccounted for unemployed?

- 5. The idea of J.F. Lyotard on the "archeology of knowledge".*

6. *Consequences of the processes of technocratization of education for the modern higher education system of Ukraine.*

TOPIC 4. Poststructuralism by M. Foucault and deconstructivism by J. Derrida

1. *Intellectual roots of postmodern sociological concepts: Michel Foucault's poststructuralism.*
2. *Jacques Derrida is the founder of the direction of deconstructivism in modern social science.*
3. *The social and political subconscious in the scientific developments of J. Deleuze and F. Guattari.*
4. *Types of philosophers from antiquity to modern times: Gilles' vision on Deleuze ideas.*

Question for discussion

1. *Books and types of modern cultures in modern society.*
2. *What was the "archaeological excavation" of human knowledge according to M. Foucault?*
3. *M. Foucault mean when he promoted the idea of the "genealogy of power"?*
4. *Man as a "desiring machine" according to J. Deleuze .*
5. *How can the idea of deconstructivism , which was developed by J. Derrida , be defined?*
6. *Chaos and randomness as characteristic features of theorizing according to J. Deleuze.*
7. *What does "rhizome" mean and how is this concept used by F. Guattari and J. Deleuze?*

TOPIC 5. The futurological direction of postmodernism in the works of J. Naisbitt

1. *"Megatrends" by John Naisbitt as the main directions of development of modern society.*
2. *Forecasts of the future, as the implementation of megatrends of social development.*
3. *Modern society as an unfinished transition from industrial to information society.*
4. *The role of the state in ensuring the transition to the information society.*

Question for discussion

1. *What is the meaning of the term " megatrend "?*
2. *What is the megatrend of moving away from the position of a self-sufficient economic system?*
3. *What does the transition to the production and distribution of information mean as a characteristic of the level of social development?*
4. *According to Naisbit, what does the term "information economy" mean?*
5. *Which management models benefit in the context of megatrends J. Neistitta ?*
6. *How would you comment on J. Naisbitt's statement that the future is already in the present?*

Content module No. 2. Directions and main sociological concepts of society at the postmodern stage

The module is dedicated to the analysis of the main concepts of postmodernism, namely: E. Toffler 's "third wave" society, F. Fukuyama 's concept of a strong state , J. Baudrillard's "anti-social" theory , A. Touraine 's post-industrial society, Z. Bauman's and I. Wallerstein's concept of postmodern society , "risk society" by U. Beck.

TOPICS 6-7. A. Toffler's "third wave" society - the development of the futurological trend in postmodern sociology. Management and world order in the 21st century: the concept of a strong state by F. Fukuyama

1. *A. Toffler's understanding of the " super-industrial " society.*
2. *The "third wave" society is an information society.*
3. *A strong state in the modern period of social development: the main factors of actualization.*
4. *Aspects of modern statehood according to F. Fukuyama .*
5. *Manifestation of signs of statehood in weak states and ways to overcome them.*
6. *Decentralization of power in society as a tool of public administration.*
7. *Forms of decentralization processes in Ukrainian society.*

Question for discussion

1. *What is the difference between the meaning of the concept of "statehood" and the concept of "state"?*
2. *How should the sphere of state influence and the power of state power be combined in a strong state (according to F. Fukuyama)?*
3. *Decentralization as a tool for the democratization of governance in the state.*
4. *What can be the danger of a high level of decentralization for the state?*
5. *Specific forms of decentralization processes in Ukrainian society.*
6. *The role of the phenomenon of the state and statehood in the history of mankind?*

TOPIC 8. Jean Baudrillard's postmodern views on society

1. "Anti-social" theory of Jean Baudrillard.
2. Simulacra as a phenomenon of modern social life. Their essence and content.
3. Simulations in modern society according to J. Baudrillard : purpose, tasks, are they solved and who (which social strata) is behind it?
4. Social order for total simulation or artificial revival of reality.
5. Does the phenomenon of Ukrainian simulacra exist?

Question for discussion

1. What does "the end of the social" mean according to Baudrillard?
2. What modern society can be defined as a "consumer society" and why?
3. How is consumer society stratified?
4. What is hyperreality?
5. Give examples of simulacra and simulations in modern social practice.
6. What is the danger of consuming symbols and signs?
7. The symbolism of exchange and how it allows Baudrillard to distinguish civilizational stages in human history?

TOPICS 9, 10. Postmodernist views of A. Turen on society and conflicts in it. Zygmunt Bauman's postmodern approaches and Immanuel Wallstein's to the study of the problems of social development.

1. Post-industrial society through the eyes of Alain Turen .
2. Main components of the conflict spectrum of modern society.
3. Responding to the challenges of the postmodern period of society's development by "sociologizing" natural and humanitarian knowledge.
4. Reflection of modernity in I. Wallerstein's postmodern concepts . I. Wallerstein's world-system analysis : conditions of its application for diagnosing the state of society and the surrounding environment.

Question for discussion

1. The concept of "mentality" as basic for defining the difference between modern and postmodern.
2. The main features of postmodernism according to Z. Bauman.
3. What vision of morality in postmodern society does Z. Bauman offer?
4. Z. Bauman's point of view, is the subject of postmodern sociological theory?
5. What general features of postmodern sociology does Z. Bauman define?
6. Wallerstein see the future of the world system?
7. What unit of social analysis does I. Wallerstein offer (historical system)?
8. The difference between "legislators" and "interpreters" according to Z. Bauman?
9. I. Wallerstein on multidisciplinary discourse regarding modern social life

Topics of the laboratory classes

Laboratory work is not included in the course

Self-study

Independent work of students is carried out in the form of individual or group assignments - a type of independent work outside of classroom hours, when students, using lecture material and additional sources of knowledge, develop their own topic.

Preparation of a presentation is a type of independent work performed by a student (or 2-3 students) outside of class hours. The student freely chooses a topic from among the topics offered by the seminar syllabus or agrees with the teacher on an initiative topic. The next step is to conduct a bibliographic search using library collections or Internet resources. They also draw up a presentation plan or ask questions that need to be answered with reason. Having mastered the sources on the topic, the student reveals the content of the questions and presents the work done at the seminar. The volume of the presentation is 16-25 slides, the text of the report is 4-6 standard pages typed on a computer. The main content of the presentation is presented in a free form at the seminar, and the student receives a grade from the teacher

Course materials and recommended reading

Main literature:

1	Frankel B. <i>Post-industrial utopians</i> / B. Frankel ; Trans. from English _ O. Yudina. - Kyiv: Nika-Center, 2005. - 304 p.
2	VV Shcherbina <i>Postmodernism as sociology: origins and genesis: monograph</i> / VV Shcherbina. - Zaporizhzhia, KSU, 2011. - 216 p.
3	Shcherbina V.V. <i>Postmodernist tendencies of classical sociology</i> / V. V. Shcherbina // <i>Labor market and population employment</i> . – K.: Institute of Training of Personnel of the State Employment Service of Ukraine, 2011. – No. 2. – P. 32–34.
4	Shcherbina V. V. <i>Modernist rationalism as the basis of classical ideological concepts</i> / V. Shcherbina // <i>Edges: scientific-theoretical and public-political almanac</i> / [science. ed. S.V. Shevtsov] ; DNU named after Olesya Honchara. - D.: Grani, 2011. - Vol. 4 (78). – pp. 89–93.
5	<i>Encyclopedia of postmodernism</i> / [ed. Ch. Winkvist and V.E. Taylor; trans. from English _ V. Shovkun]. - Kyiv. : Basics, 2003. – 503 p.
6	<i>The Postmodernism Reader : Foundational Texts</i> / M. Drolet . - London and New York : Routledge , 2004. - 332
7	Bauman Z. <i>Intimations of Postmodernity</i> . - London : Routledge , 1992. - 187
8	Parsons T. <i>The Social System</i> . - London : Routledge , 1951. - 241 p.
9	Fromm E. <i>Espoir et revolution</i> / E. Fromm . - P. Stock , 1970. - 180;
10	Foucault M. <i>Supervise and punish. Birth of the prison</i> / M. Foucault. - K.: Osnovy, 1998. - 392 p.
11	Ricker P. <i>Himself as another</i> / P. Ricker . - K.: Spirit and Letter, 2002. - 450 p.
12	Lesh S. <i>Sociology of postmodernism</i> / S. Lesh. - K.: Osnovy, 2003. - 285 p.
13	Deleuze J. <i>Capitalism and schizophrenia. Anti-Oedipus</i> / J. Deleuze, F. Guattari. - K.: Karma. - Sino, 1996. - 384 p.
14	Bauman Z. <i>Sociological theory of postmodernity</i> / Z. Bauman // <i>Man and society: a textbook</i> . - K.: IS NAU, 1999. - P. 255 - 267.
15	Baudrillard J. <i>Simulacra and simulations</i> / J. Baudrillard. - K.: Basics, 2004. - 230 p.
16	Baudrillard J. <i>Symbolic exchange and death</i> / J. Baudrillard . - L.: Kalvariya , 2004. - 376 p.

Assessment and grading

Criteria for assessment of student performance, and the final score structure

100% The final grade is composed of the assessment results in the form of examination (20%) and ongoing assessment (80%). The exam includes two theoretical questions on course topics. Ongoing assessment involves completing an individual assignment in the form of a course paper with a presentation (40%) and completing tasks on the topics during practical sessions (40%).

Grading scale

Total points	National	ECTS
90–100	Excellent	A
82–89	Good	B
75–81	Good	C
64–74	Satisfactory	D
60–63	Satisfactory	E
35–59	Unsatisfactory (requires additional learning)	FX
1–34	Unsatisfactory (requires repetition of the course)	F

Norms of academic integrity and course policy

The student must adhere to the Code of Ethics of Academic Relations and Integrity of NTU "KhPI": to demonstrate discipline, good manners, kindness, honesty, and responsibility. Conflict situations should be openly discussed in academic groups with a lecturer, and if it is impossible to resolve the conflict, they should be brought to the attention of the Institute's management.

Regulatory and legal documents related to the implementation of the principles of academic integrity at NTU "KhPI" are available on the website: <http://blogs.kpi.kharkov.ua/v2/nv/akademichna-dobrochesnist/>

Approval

Approved by

Date, signature

Head of the department
Volodymyr MOROZ

30.06.23



Date, signature

Guarantor of the educational program
Yuriy KALAHIN

30.06.23

