

First Term, Academic Year 2024-2025

Field Seminar: Sociology: Main questions and building blocks

Tuesday 15:00-17:00, Seminar Room 2

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Course description

This course addresses key questions, theoretical approaches and readings in sociology as a core social science discipline. Sociology is a very disparate discipline but this course approaches it by focusing on key theoretical approaches and questions that cut through much of good sociological research. The focus of the course is on asking theoretical questions, developing theoretical arguments, and thinking sociologically. The course comes in two parts: a ten week seminar series and an exam of a reading list of some key texts in sociology. The seminar and the readings are structured under five themes: Core principles and sociological theory building, Social structure and agency, Social integration and social cohesion, Differentiation and inequality, and Social change and continuity. By the end of the course, the participants are expected to have developed an understanding of sociological thinking and some key sociological fields and central works therein.

The set up of the course is as follows:

Week 1. Core principles and sociological theory building

Week 2. Social structure and agency I: agency

Week 3: Social structure and agency II: structure & institutions

Week 4. Social integration and cohesion I: social order

Week 5. Social integration and cohesion II: networks

Week 6. Differentiation and inequality I: principles of social class and stratification

Week 7. Differentiation and inequality II: Gender

Week 8: Differentiation and inequality III: Race, ethnicity, migration

Week 9. Social change and continuity I: Social change

Week 10. Social change and continuity II: The life course