



## UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN PRAGUE

**Course:** SSC105 Introduction to Sociology (6 ECTS/3 US credits)  
**Semester:** Spring 2024  
**Prerequisites:** None  
**Instructors:**  
**Contact:**

### 1. Catalogue Description

This course consists of an analysis of social structures and processes in settings ranging from small informal groups to formal organizations and communities to stratification and kinship systems to total societies.

### 2. Course Purpose

The course offers a broad introduction to the nature of society and the relationship between society and the individual. We will survey basic sociological ideas regarding social relations, social interaction, social structure, and social change. Students will also be introduced to key issues addressed by contemporary sociologists. This course will identify how sociology offers a distinctive way of interpreting the surrounding world, as well as to understand how social contexts and structures shape our lives. In addition to learning about sociology, you will learn to write as a sociologist, conduct some forms of sociological research, present your findings, and analyze what sociologists have written.

### 3. Required Readings:

John J Macionis (2017). *Sociology, Global Edition*, Pearson (available through Perlego e-library: <https://www.perlego.com/book/811852/sociology-global-edition-pdf?queryID=0b4756362f48a37cecbac35934b02b91&searchIndexType=books>)

**Additional required readings for each week will be uploaded to e-learning platform.**

### 4. Recommended Readings

This is a non-exhaustive list of recommended readings. Additional recommended readings will be available via eLearning.

- Bauman, Zygmunt (1989). *Modernity and The Holocaust*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Ferrante, Joan (2015). *Sociology a Global Perspective*, Northern Kentucky University, Publisher: Cengage Learning (9<sup>th</sup> Edition).
- Goffman, Erving (1959). *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. Garden City, NJ: Doubleday.
- Heather Griffiths et al (2017) - *Introduction to Sociology 2e*, OpenStax, Rice University (available in Perlego e-library).
- Mills, C. Wright (1956/2000) *The Power Elite*, Oxford University Press.

- Mills, C. Wright (1959), *The Sociological Imagination*. Oxford University Press.
- Ritzer, George (1993). *The McDonaldization of Society*. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

## 5. Learning Outcomes

### Specialist knowledge:

*Students will be able to:*

- express the ideas of major sociological thinkers, and how they have impacted our outlooks today
- define the major institutional components of human societies
- describe the causes and directions of social change in modern history, and the core problems confronting society today
- define and begin using major sociological concepts and theories, and understand sociology's relationship with sister social sciences
- describe the role that culture plays in affecting group as well as individual behaviors

### Specialist skills:

*Students will be able to:*

- recognize the major stages of societal evolution
- compare and contrast the three main sociological theories in sociology
- use the sociological imagination, in order to better comprehend the social world in which we live
- apply scientific principles to specific myths and common sense understandings in society
- use critical thinking skills in consuming information from the government, media, and other sources.

## 6. Course Schedule

Class meetings consist of lectures, case study analysis, short movie screenings, student presentations, groupwork, and in-class discussion. Supporting materials and activities are provided through the UNYP e-learning platform. Special conditions may apply depending on the state of the Covid 19 pandemic, in this case students will be informed.

Week 1: The Sociological Perspective: The Scope and Origins of Sociology (Ch1, Ch4)

Week 2: Sociological Investigation: Methods and Key Concepts (Ch2, Ch 4)

Week 3: Culture (Ch3)

Week 4: Socialization (Ch5)

Week 5: Social Interaction in Everyday Life (Ch6)

Week 6: Groups and Organizations (Ch7)

### **Week 7: Midterm Exam**

Week 8: Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control (Ch9)

Week 9: Social Stratification: Economic Inequality (Ch 10, 11, 12)

Week 10: Social Stratification: Race & Ethnicity (Ch 14)

Week 11: Economy and Politics (Ch 16 & 17)

Week 12: Family & Gender (Ch 18 & Ch 13)

Week 13: Education (Ch 20)

Week 14: Social Change (Ch 22, 23, 24)

## Week 15: Final Exam

### 7. Course Requirements and Grading – the course will be graded based on:

Engagement	20%
Project Presentation	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

#### Engagement:

Students are expected to actively engage in the class discussions and contribute to the joint learning experience, online and offline. Participation is about active involvement in the classroom through groupwork and discussions in face-to-face sessions as well as on e-learning platforms, including but not limited to timely and thorough completion of weekly readings and other assignments demonstrated by the participation in online discussions and quizzes and other types of homework assigned by the instructor within the class or on the e-learning platform.

#### Project Presentation:

Students are required to deliver an in-class presentation on the topic assigned by the instructor. The topics will be assigned during the first session at latest. The presentation will be delivered individually or in teams/groups of approximately 2 to 3 students, depending on the number of students in the course. The instructor will also provide detailed guidelines for the presentations including the dates for each presentation.

#### Exams (Mid-term and Final):

Each exam will consist of questions whose number will depend on the complexity of questions and the type of exam, including multiple-choice questions, summary responses to short essays. It is the discretion of the lecturer to decide on the number, type, and complexity of questions in each exam. It also is at the discretion of the lecturer to decide if the exams will be held in-class or take-home. Special conditions may apply depending on the state of the Covid 19 pandemic, in this case students will be informed in timely manner. The students will be informed in due time about the form of the exam.

#### Grading scale

Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning	Notes
A	95-100	Outstanding work	x
A-	90-94		x
B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above the average	x
B	83-86		x
B-	80-82		x
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work	x

C	73-76		x
C-	70-72		x
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average	Credits for the course will not transfer to ESC
D	63-66		Credits for the course will not transfer to ESC
D-	60-62		Credits for the course will not transfer to ESC
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course	No credits awarded

## 8. Key UNYP Policies

### Attendance:

- It is your responsibility to show up to class on time. If you are late, you will be marked as absent for that hour. **If you miss more than 12 (twelve) hours of class, for any reason, you will automatically fail the entire course. This is standard UNYP policy.**
- Special attendance conditions may apply depending on the state of the Covid 19 pandemic, in this case students will be informed.

### Academic Honesty

- The university's rules on academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the student honor code or ask your instructor for clarification.
- For examinations: copying from your neighbor, communicating with another student, using a phone or anything similar will result in you failing the test or quiz.
- On written papers, properly note your sources with academic citations. Cutting and pasting from the Internet without accurately citing the source may be considered plagiarism. Students may be required to submit papers electronically, which could mean an automated check for plagiarism via the Turnitin resource. Students may also be required to defend the content of a paper orally to an instructor as a check on authorship.
- If you have questions about any of the above, please consult with the instructor.

## 9. General Requirements

- Students are expected to attend each class session and participate in a positive way.
- Students are expected to come to class fully prepared.

- Students are expected to turn in assignments in due time. Late assignments and absence from tests are understood as unacceptable. Late submission of work shall be evaluated at a minimum deduction of 10% per day. Absence from tests can be excused only with a medical conformation, as per UNYP policies.
- Students are expected to have their mobile phones and other electronic gadgets on silent mode and are not allowed to take calls in the classroom.
- Students are expected to fulfill all other requirements of the course in relation to their regular engagement on e-learning platform, such as, for example, participation in forum discussions, quizzes, and chats, as well as to deliver presentations in the agreed format all of which will count towards their engagement grade.
- In the event of illness or emergency, contact your instructor IN ADVANCE to determine whether special arrangements are possible.

### **10. European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS):**

The students that complete the course will receive 6 ECTS credits or 3 American credits. One ECTS credit corresponds to 25-30 hours of work. For comparison, 1 American credit hour equals approximately 2 ECTS credits.

For this course, students are expected to spend time in the following course-related activities:

- Class Lectures and exams 48 hours
- Reading class related material 52 hours
- Exam preparations 30 hours
- Online discussions engagement 10 hours
- Team Project preparation 30 hours
- TOTAL 170 hours

### **11. Technology Expectations**

Assignments, excluding those that are carried out exclusively in class, must be word-processed.

Students must be able to use Zoom video conferencing platform as well as UNYP e-learning platform Moodle.

Students are assumed to be familiar with the use of internet and in particular with the gathering of data from the wide world web. This will be a necessary tool for carrying out some of the course assignments (i.e. long essay or class presentations).