



Insights on Current Society

ASGV01000

5 ECTS

Teaching Assistant: **Eliška Nosková (email TBA)**

Course guarantor: **petra.poncarova@ff.cuni.cz**

Thursdays 14:10

Celetná 13, room 1.09

Course annotation:

Beginner sociology and sociology for students of other disciplines both Czech and from abroad.

The course offers an introduction to some more specific areas of sociological thought and research. The goal of the course is to develop sociological imagination and relate key sociological concepts, theories, and expertise to specific and relatable topics. Thus, the course is also very well suited to Czech students of sociology as well as to sharpen their analytical skills and continue with their introductory courses in a different setting. To students of other disciplines, this course offers a non-traditional introduction to sociology through specific examples of sociological research.

Each semester, four to five topics are covered within the course, showcasing the sociological research and theory. Each topic is first introduced in a lecture. Students are then given a reading (one article or chapter) to prepare for a seminar next week which explores the topic in greater depth. Therefore, students are not passively introduced to topics, but are invited to actively engage with them.

Since the course invites students from abroad as well as Czech students, each topic covered can be approached through comparative cross-national perspective. Students are invited to do so, especially in the group work (see Course requirements).

Lectures:

22. 2.	Welcome & Introduction	<i>Petra Poncarová</i>
29. 2.	The Problems of Human Nature: Responsibility for Environmental Crises <i>Lecture</i>	<i>Eva Richter</i>
7. 3.	The Problems of Human Nature: Responsibility for Environmental Crises <i>Seminar</i>	
14. 3.	Criminology: TBA <i>Lecture</i>	<i>Jiří Buriánek</i>
21. 3.	Criminology: TBA <i>Seminar</i>	
28. 3.	<i>Deans's Day</i>	
4. 4.	Group Work Session	<i>Petra Poncarová</i>
11. 4.	"Flesh and Bones" and Society: Menstruation and the Normal Working Body <i>Lecture</i>	<i>Petra Poncarová</i>
18. 4.	"Flesh and Bones" and Society: Menstruation and the Normal Working Body <i>Seminar</i>	
25. 4.	Social Stratification: TBA <i>Lecture</i>	<i>Jiří Šafr</i>
2. 5.	Social Stratification: TBA <i>Seminar</i>	
9. 5.	Work on Presentations ("Get It Done Session")	<i>Petra Poncarová</i>
16. 5.	Wrap-up	<i>Petra Poncarová</i>



Course requirements and examination:

Students are required to:

- A) attendance:** maximum of 3 absences (attendance tracked by signatures on the attendance sheet). If you feel ill – let us know, these absences will not be counted;
- B) preparation:** such preparation may include reading a provided text, reflecting upon it in a **short** written answer and/or answering some questions – this is for reflection and getting in the mood for the lecture – 3 (out of 4) preparations per semester are required **SUBMISSION of preparation work** before each seminar class **until Tuesday 23:59** in Moodle;
- C) prepare a team presentation:**
- each team (4-5 students) will prepare and **submit a video presentation** on a selected topic (app. 10-15 minutes long)
 - submission in Moodle **due 23rd of May**
 - each presentation will be evaluated by the lecturers (max. of 28 points, 16 points as a minimum to pass) and by the peers (students) (max. of 12 points).

The goal of the **TEAM PRESENTATION TASK (instructions here!)** is to

- formulate a **specific** (= narrow, well defined, tangible!) research question aimed at comparing two or more cultures/societies in a specific area, topic or issue;
- find and analyse **scientific** literature on which the team will base the comparison of the selected cultures/societies and the conclusions of this comparison (i.e., the answer to the selected question);
- illustrate the comparison** with own experiences or experiences of others (e.g. through media, narratives etc.);
- present the results** of analysing, comparing/contrasting, and illustrating (as to the points above).

Examples of relevant research questions:

- How do the inhabitants of *countries x and y* relate to natural landscape and nature in general and what may be some causes of observed differences in how they relate to nature?
- What attitudes do the inhabitants of *countries x and y* have about prison sentences and why?
- How media in *countries x and y* present *issue z* and why?

Students may improve their grading by:

submitting a short essay (2-3 norm pages) on the topic of their team presentation but using their own individual perspective and using additional sources, i.e. the essay is a standalone individual work which is by no means a copy of the presentation or purely derivative of the presentation.



Grading:

Final grade is based on points received throughout the course for student work. Regular attendance is required as a condition for receiving a grade.

Requirement:	Maximum points:	Minimum required points:
Preparation (5 points each)	20	15
Presentation	40	16
Essay	30	0

Final grade:

Points:	Final grade:
60+	1
46-60	2
31-45	3
less than 31	4 (FAIL)

Evaluation criteria used in lecturer evaluation of the presentation:

This rubric may serve for peer-evaluation as well.

Criteria:	Rubric evaluation:		
	Weak	Satisfactory	Strong
<i>Evaluation points rewarded per criteria:</i>	1	4	7
Research question	Goal/question is unclear, too broad, ambiguous	Goal/question is clear and specific, but the presentation does not adhere to it/does not present relevant answers	Goal/question is clear and specific and the presentation adheres to it
Literature and sources	Inadequate sources and bad use / citation	Adequate and quality sources but bad use / citation	Adequate and quality sources well used and correctly cited
Argumentation and structure	No clear structure, parts of the presentation are irrelevant to the stated goal	Structure seems logical but could be improved	Well structured – does not contain irrelevant information and no information is missing
Presentation	Hard to follow, disorienting, difficulty to understand	Could use some polishing	Well presented, easy to follow and understand, nicely done
Maximum total score:	4x7=28		

Literature and study materials will be provided for each lecture in Moodle.



How to Get Help

Since the teaching staff for this class is large, you might wonder who you should see about what. Here are some general guidelines.

If you need to skip a class due to health or family issues, e-mail the Teaching Assistant (see e-mail address above).

In general, all questions regarding

- Interim tasks (reading assignments),
- Moodle,
- Task submission,
- Class materials,
- Your grades and scores, and
- Your attendance,

should be directed at the course guarantor (see the e-mail address above). They are happy to answer your questions by e-mail or in person before/after each lecture.

If you feel that your team is not working properly and you need some advice, contact the course guarantor. They will assess the situation and will try their best to help you.

If you need feedback or guidance on your team presentation, such as feedback on your research question, structure, sources, argumentation, and/or presentation, contact the course guarantor. They will happily provide some guidance if you feel uncertain about whether your work is on track.

If the course is taking too much of your time: This course is supposed to take, on average, 4-5 hours per week (not counting the lectures!). If on average you are spending significantly more than this, we want to know. Please send the course guarantor an email message telling them. Sometimes it is hard for us to judge the difficulty of an assignment and your message lets us know when there is a problem.

If you have an academic question regarding a specific lecture, feel free to contact the lecturer. You will find their name in the course schedule. Our Teaching Assistant can provide you with their e-mail address.

If you have a general academic question, contact the course guarantor. They will be happy to answer or direct you to someone able to discuss the matter with you further.



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

Department of Sociology

Course policies:

Course recording: No student may record any classroom activity without express written consent from the course guarantor (Petra Poncarová). If you have (or think you may have) a disability such that you need to record or tape classroom activities, you should contact the Office of Disability Resources to request an appropriate accommodation.

Zero Tolerance of Cheating & Plagiarism: Plagiarism means using words, ideas, or arguments from another person or source without citation. Cite all sources consulted to any extent (including material from the internet), whether or not assigned and whether or not quoted directly. For quotations, four or more words used in sequence must be set off in quotation marks, with the source identified.

Any form of cheating will immediately earn you a failing grade for the entire course. By remaining enrolled, you consent to this policy.