

# Applied Social and Intercultural Studies: Study Plan

## Institute of Sociology, University of Wrocław, Poland

Course name		Description
1	Foundations of Sociological Theory	The course content provides knowledge about the formation of the foundations of sociological theory, from the birth of sociology as a discipline in the nineteenth century to the key re-evaluations of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Students become familiar with classical theories and the trajectory of their development, as well as with the continuators and critics of leading concepts, including non-Western ones. The course develops skills in applying sociological theories in students' own research and raises awareness of the socio-political, economic, cultural and technological conditions in which the main currents of sociology were formed.
2	Sociology of Culture: Theory and Practice	The course content introduces students to the basic concepts, theories and research approaches of the sociology of culture and develops the ability to analyse cultural practices in contexts of social and intercultural diversity. This enables students to understand how culture shapes social relations, power structures and collective identities, and how it constitutes a space for negotiating meanings, values and social norms. The student learns to analyse and interpret cultural phenomena from a sociological perspective, using theories and tools of cultural analysis to study the relationship between culture and power, as well as social problems. The student comes to understand the importance of cultural diversity, can critically evaluate their own attitudes towards difference, and to act responsibly and reflectively in intercultural environments.
3	Art, Ethics and Reflexive Practice	The course content develops ethical sensitivity and critical thinking through the analysis of visual and artistic materials used in intercultural research. The course encourages students to reflect on the ways in which other people and cultures are represented, and on the responsibility of the researcher and the artist for the images and narratives they produce. Participants learn to recognise how practices of representation affect power relations, identity and trust in the social sphere. The course deepens the understanding of contemporary theories of representation and the ethics of visibility, teaches students to critically analyse visual messages and to identify their cultural and political conditions. The course develops research reflexivity, epistemological awareness and a responsible approach to designing artistic and scholarly activities.
4	Comparative Labour Studies in Global Contexts	The course will introduce to theories and comparative research on the world of work. Labour studies (labour studies) is a rapidly developing field of research drawing, among others, on the sociology of work, industrial relations, critical management studies and neoinstitutional economics. Adopting a humanistic and interdisciplinary approach, labour studies focus on workers, their lives and conflicts in the sphere of work, using a broad definition of work – both paid and unpaid – and emphasising the role of intersectional identities related to ethnic origin, migration status, gender, sexuality, age and other factors. The course will provide students with theoretical and methodological tools used in comparative research on the world of work. They will also learn about the role of workers' histories and narratives in labour research, including biographical approaches and critical race methodologies.
5	Training and Facilitation in Multicultural Environments	The course content develops training, facilitation and communication competences in contexts of cultural diversity. The course is implemented in three complementary modules: interpersonal training, intercultural training and an anti-discrimination workshop, which together develop key personal, social and intercultural competences. The programme prepares students to work with groups, to understand the dynamics of group processes, and to conduct educational and integration activities in an empathetic, reflective and anti-discriminatory manner. The student deepens their knowledge of training and facilitation techniques, interpersonal communication, as well as the importance of diversity and inclusion in group work.

6	Contemporary Debates in Sociology	<p>The course content introduces students to the most important contemporary academic and public debates in which sociologists participate (e.g. structure/agency, decolonisation of knowledge, critique of the Anthropocene and the climate crisis, interdisciplinarity/transdisciplinarity, new dimensions of social inequalities, contemporary political polarisation, global migrations, intersectionality, the latest social movements). The course places particular emphasis on debates conducted in multicultural societies and issues related to global power relations. It also addresses topics such as the digital revolution, the algorithmic society and artificial intelligence; posthumanism and the relationship between humans and technology; new forms of inequality and new ethical and epistemological challenges associated with digital technologies; new social movements and digital activism; as well as transformations of sociology itself under the influence of data science, computer science, philosophy of technology and environmental studies. The course develops the ability to conduct students' own research in areas that are the subject of the most significant contemporary sociological debates.</p>
7	Intercultural Communication, Mediation and Conflict Resolution	<p>The course introduces issues of intercultural communication and the basic principles of mediation and negotiation in contexts of cultural diversity. Students learn to identify communication barriers and sources of conflict resulting from different cultural codes, and to apply strategies for building understanding based on empathy and cooperation. They practise skills such as active listening, paraphrasing, clarification, working with the interests and needs of the parties, and designing lasting agreements in conflict situations.</p>
8	Methods of Social Research and Research Design	<p>The classes introduce key quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches used in the social sciences. Participants become familiar with basic methods and techniques of data collection and analysis, including survey research, statistical models, analysis of relationships between variables and techniques of reporting results. They develop practical skills in working with real datasets and in interpreting results in complex social and intercultural contexts. At the same time, the course discusses differences between quantitative and qualitative research paradigms, their ontological and epistemological assumptions, and the logic of matching methods to research questions. Participants are introduced to qualitative strategies such as case study, ethnography, grounded theory and narrative research, learning how to formulate research problems, select samples and conduct interviews and observations. An important element of the course is reflection on ethics, the politics of knowledge and the role of the researcher in the process of interpreting data.</p>
9	Migration and Intercultural Relations	<p>The course deepens knowledge about the origins, dynamics and contemporary manifestations of intercultural relations in a global context. The course introduces the issues of migration and its relations with multiculturalism, drawing attention to asymmetries of power, representation, and access to resources. It teaches students to recognise how past hierarchies influence contemporary cultural interactions, and how to design more partnership-based and egalitarian practices of cooperation. The student deepens their understanding of theories and processes shaping intercultural relations, including postcolonial and decolonial perspectives and the impact of power asymmetries on contemporary cultural dependencies. The course teaches how to critically analyse phenomena of migration and cultural representation, acting in the spirit of equality, dialogue and reflexivity.</p>
10	Society and Culture (elective course block – to choose)	<p>The elective course block includes an analysis of the ways in which social and cultural life is organised in different contexts. It combines three areas: contemporary Poland, urban diversity and comparative cultural studies. Students study the historical heritage, religion, memory and regional diversity of Poland; analyse cities as spaces of multicultural interactions, gentrification and marginalisation; and compare cultural models from different parts of the world, tracing how practices, values and identities emerge and circulate between societies. The block develops tools for analysing cultural dynamics in both local and transnational perspectives.</p>

11	MA Seminar	The seminar content covers: to familiarise the student with the methods and techniques of preparing and writing a master's thesis; to select the topic of the thesis and develop its concept and outline; to conceptualise the research problem and prepare a research plan for the thesis; to prepare the master's thesis; and to prepare the student for the master's examination. The course programme also includes learning how to format the thesis in accordance with applicable standards, the principles of correct citation of literature, and the drafting of the abstract and individual chapters of the thesis. Students acquire skills in organising research material, analysing results and formulating conclusions, which enables them to prepare comprehensively for the defence and the master's examination.
12	Quantitative Data Analysis	The course introduces methods and techniques of quantitative data analysis using specialised computer software. Students learn how to prepare and process datasets, apply basic statistical methods and interpret the results of analyses. The course develops skills in data aggregation, visualisation of results and formulating research conclusions in the form of a report, with an emphasis on the reliability and transparency of the presentation of findings.
13	Qualitative Data Analysis	The module content equips students with advanced knowledge of the epistemology and theoretical assumptions of qualitative sociological research. The student acquires skills in, among other things, selecting and using techniques for designing qualitative research, collecting data, analysing and interpreting them, and reporting within an individual research project. The student also gains competences related to collaboration in small task-oriented research teams.
14	Migration and Identity in Multicultural Societies	The course analyses how narratives, collective memory and identity shape social relations in multicultural contexts. It discusses their role in processes of reconciliation, but also in building hierarchies, exclusions and conflicts. Students become familiar with theories of narrative, social memory and collective identity, as well as methods of researching phenomena in this area, such as narrative interviews, participatory methods and visual sociology. Examples of public narratives and counter-narratives, processes of racialisation and migrantisation, hybrid identities and strategies for shaping shared memory and citizenship are analysed. The course develops the ability to interpret the relationships between memory, identity and power, and to apply qualitative tools in social analysis.
15	Intercultural Mediation: Policies and Practice	The course focuses on institutional frameworks of mediation and intercultural dialogue implemented across sectors in the areas of education, culture, health and social policy. Students become familiar with sources and methods of data collection, needs assessment techniques, and ways of designing and evaluating interventions in culturally diverse environments. The course develops the ability to analyse integration policies, document mediation processes and reflect on the role of institutions in creating inclusive and dialogical social spaces.
16	Visual Culture, Everyday Life and Media (elective course block – to choose)	The elective course block analyses how images, everyday practices and digital media shape cultural meanings and intercultural communication. Students analyse representations of "Others" in film, photography and social campaigns; learn how culinary practices create identities and power relations; and study the impact of digital platforms on identity, attention and global interactions. The block develops skills in critical visual analysis, understanding media-driven social dynamics and designing responsible communication in transnational environments.
17	Academic Writing	The course deepens academic writing skills. Students will become familiar not only with the principles of producing academic texts, but also with the legal aspects of intellectual property: academic writing workshops; law and practice of intellectual property. The course includes practical exercises in editing texts, error analysis and learning to use tools that facilitate the organisation of bibliographies and correct citation. Participants also acquire knowledge of editorial and ethical standards in academic publications, which supports the development of their unique research style.

18	Intercultural Competences in Professional and Social Practice	The course summarises and integrates the knowledge acquired during the studies, focusing on the practical use of intercultural competences in professional work and social engagement. Students identify their strengths, document their experiences and develop a competence portfolio useful in recruitment and project processes. The course combines ethical, communicative and organisational perspectives, developing the ability to act consciously and responsibly in culturally diverse environments.
19	Ethics of Social Research and Intellectual Property	The course provides a systematic overview of the ethical norms applicable in social research and the basics of intellectual property protection. The course will introduce an outline of the main ethical paradigms (deontology, consequentialism and virtue ethics), and then embed in them the moral dilemmas related to issues such as informed consent, anonymity, risks for participants, as well as licences, the right of quotation and the principles of co-authorship. The aim of the course will also be to prepare students to create and apply ethical procedures and data protection strategies. The course will also raise awareness of specific ethical problems that arise in research on multicultural environments – for example, the problem of representation, cultural translation, power relations or working with sensitive data. Detailed course content includes the relationships between philosophy, ethics, morality and social research; theoretical foundations of ethics; ethical problems and dilemmas of research; intellectual property protection; researcher integrity; alternative ethical paradigms.
20	Public Speaking and Presentation Skills	The course introduces students to the practical aspects of public speaking in academic and professional contexts. Students learn the elements of effective verbal and non-verbal communication, techniques for structuring a speech and methods for adapting the message to different types of audiences. The programme covers issues related to substantive preparation, overcoming stage fright, voice modulation and the effective use of time and space during a presentation. The course develops skills in argumentation, improvisation and responding to questions and criticism. Particular emphasis is placed on presenting social data in a way that is accessible to diverse audiences. Students also learn to use visual aids as support for oral communication. The classes are workshop-based, with regular practice of individual and group presentations, which are recorded and subjected to constructive analysis.
21	Identity, Inequalities and Well-Being (elective course block – to choose)	The elective course block analyses how social structures affect the identities, inequalities and well-being of individuals and groups. It includes intersectional analyses of gender, class, race/ethnicity, migration and citizenship; analysis of the impact of globalisation, mobility and transnational practices on transformations of identity; and assessment of psychosocial risks at work related to discrimination, organisational culture and unequal access to resources. Students learn to identify mechanisms of exclusion, evaluate equality policies and design interventions that support resilience, inclusiveness and social justice in intercultural environments.
22	Polish Language (for foreign students)	The course content includes vocabulary and grammar of the Polish language in line with the requirements defined for level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Students acquire the ability to read, write, speak and listen in Polish at the level specified in the programme. Communicative competences are developed broadly, enabling communication in a variety of situations.
23	Foreign Language	The course content includes vocabulary and grammar of a foreign language in line with the requirements defined for level B2+ of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Students acquire an advanced ability to write, speak and listen in the foreign language at the level specified in the programme. Enhanced communicative competences enable communication in a variety of situations.