Course Title: Social Institutions and Everyday life

Aims and Objective

This course explores the way social institutions operate in a globalizing world, with an emphasis on its socio-cultural, economic and political contexts. In addition to understanding how various contemporary social institutions have developed, students would also learn to describe and apply basic sociological concepts and theories to everyday life.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course

On completion of the course, students should be able to

ILO1. identify and explain how selected key social institutions have developed in recent decades;
ILO2. describe and explain basic sociological concepts and theories;
ILO3. analyze social institutions by applying sociological concepts and theories;
ILO4. identify the diversity and complexity of human cultures and social structures, and evaluate everyday life in a critical and reflective manner.

Syllabus

Introduction
1. Introduction: Basic sociological concepts
   - Culture and social structure
   - Globalization
      - Definition and different dimensions of globalization
      - Historical context: Postwar decades and developmental issues

Topics
2. Culture
   - Cultural globalization
   - Case study (e.g. institutional isomorphism in healthcare, Hollywood and the global film industry)

3. Economy
   - Social stratification and social mobility under global capitalism
   - Impact on work: Flexible economy and offshoring
   - Impact on inequalities: Systemic crisis and the logic of accumulation
   - Case study (e.g. the 2008 financial tsunami, rise of precarious work)

4. Politics
   - Nation-states in a globalizing world
   - War and terrorism in a globalizing world
   - Case study (e.g. the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, problems with political refugees)

5. Environment
   - Social construction of environmental issues and problems
- Biodiversity loss and environmental crisis as a global issue
- Case study (e.g. global water crisis, global warming)

**Conclusion**

6. Risk governance and global institutions
   - Emergence of risk issues and production of risk knowledge and experts
   - Global problems and global risk governance: Role of the state, market, and the public

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Assessment (Weighting)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuous Assessment (100%)</td>
<td>Class Tests (45%)</td>
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<td>Reflection paper: about 1.500 words (25%)</td>
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<td>Group presentation (20%)</td>
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<td>Class Participation (10%)</td>
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**Pre-requisite(s)**

Nil

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**Required and Recommended Reading**

**Recommended readings:**

15.06.2017