



SVEUČILIŠTE U RIJECI

Filozofski fakultet

UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Address: Sveučilišna avenija 4

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E-mail: dekanat@ffri.uniri.hr

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SYLLABUS

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

Course title	Introduction to cultural studies
Study programme	Undergraduate study programme in Cultural Studies
Semester	Winter
Academic year	2024./2025.
ECTS credits	5
Contact hours (Lectures + Seminars + Practical work)	30 + 30 + 0
Time and venue of classes	According to schedule
Language of instruction	English
Course instructor	Dunja Matić Benčić
Office number	815
Office hours	Mondays from 10 am to 3 pm
Phone	00385 51 265
Email	dunja.matic@ffri.uniri.hr

I. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE OVERVIEW

- Key features of the discipline.
- Early days of cultural studies: the Birmingham school (Richard Hoggart, Raymond Williams, E. P. Thompson, Stuart Hall); British cultural studies; internationalization of cultural studies; American cultural studies (theorization and the loss of ideological driving forces)
- Questions of proximity and differences compared to other similar disciplines such as sociology, sociolinguistics, ethnology, cultural anthropology, communication studies, mediology, cultural history, etc.; general scope of the discipline itself
- Fundamental theoretical sources of cultural studies: Marxism, social constructivism and anti-essentialism; cultural turn in the social and human sciences, narrative turn in ethnography; poststructuralism and postmodernism

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the emergence of cultural studies and their (inter)disciplinary specificity; 2. Describe the internationalization of cultural studies after the Birmingham origins; 3. Describe the social, political, and theoretical context that enabled the rapid expansion of cultural studies (globalization, neoliberalism, postmodernism); 4. Identify the similarities and differences with other social-humanistic disciplines such as sociology, sociolinguistics, ethnology, cultural anthropology, communication studies, mediology, cultural history, etc.; 			
Recognize the main theoretical sources of cultural studies			
DELIVERY OF THE COURSE			
Lectures	Seminars	Practical work	Independent work
x	x		x
Fieldwork	Laboratory work	Mentoring	Other
		x	

II. COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING CRITERIA		
ASSESSMENT COMPONENT	ECTS CREDIT ALLOCATION	MAXIMUM POINTS (% OF TOTAL)
Class attendance	2	0
Class participation	1	25
Project-based assessment	1	25
Continuous assessment	0.5	20
Final exam	0.5	30
Other	/	/
TOTAL	5	100

Final grades will be determined as follows:

GRADE	UNDEGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMMES
5 (A)	90 – 100 % points
4 (B)	75 – 89.9 % points
3 (C)	60 – 74.9 % points
2 (D)	50 – 59.9 % points
1 (F)	0 – 49.9 % points

III. READING
REQUIRED TEXT
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barker, Chris: <i>Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice</i>, London, 2000. 2. Barker, Chris: <i>The SAGE Dictionary of Cultural Studies</i>, London, 2004.
RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Mcrobbie, Angela: <i>Postmodernism and popular culture</i>. Routledge, 2003. 4. Hoggart, Richard: <i>The uses of literacy</i>. Routledge, 2017. 5. Leavis, Frank Raymond. <i>Mass civilisation and minority culture</i> 6. Horkheimer, M., Adorno, T. W., & Noeri, G. (2002). <i>Dialectic of enlightenment</i>. Stanford University Press.

IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ATTENDANCE
Recommended but not obligatory
COURSE NOTIFICATIONS

COURSE INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION	
Via email: dunja.matic@ffri.uniri.hr	
FINAL EXAM INFO	
Continuous Monitoring of Students' Progress	
Continuous monitoring of students' progress is carried out during the teaching part of the semester through two written tests (midterm exams), held in the sixth and eleventh weeks of the semester (in case of overlap with other exams, dates may be adjusted).	
(Text Analysis) / Seminar Paper - Essay	
The task involves writing an analysis of a selected text and writing an essay on a previously agreed-upon topic, using both the required and seminar literature that has been previously discussed in class.	
When evaluating the text analysis, the student's ability to demonstrate basic understanding of the read material is taken into account, which is reflected in their ability to identify key concepts and recognize the main thematic units. In addition, grammatical proficiency and the precision and clarity of expression are also evaluated.	
When evaluating the essay, attention will be paid to the recognition and connection of relevant theses presented in the required and seminar literature, in relation to the agreed-upon essay topic. In addition, the correctness and consistency of source citations, as well as grammatical accuracy and clarity of expression, will be assessed.	
OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	
Academic honesty policy	
Any use of texts or other types of work by another author, as well as the use of ChatGPT or other tools whose function is based on AI technology, without a clear and unambiguous citation of the source is considered a violation of academic integrity principles, and is a serious offence regulated by the Ordinance on Student Responsibilities.	
EXAM DATES	
Winter	
Summer	
Autumn	

V. COURSE OUTLINE (optional)	
DATE	TOPIC
Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Modernism and postmodernism
Week 3	Key features of Cultural studies
Week 4	Fundamental theoretical influences 1
Week 5	Fundamental theoretical influences 2
Week 6	Midterm exam
Week 7	Close reading
Week 8	Close reading
Week 9	Close reading
Week 10	Midterm
Week 11	Workshop: essay
Week 12	First draft of the essay
Week 13	Final version of the essay
Week 14	Make up exam
Week 15	

VI. CONSTRUCTIVE ALIGNMENT

LEARNING OUTCOMES	CONTENT	TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT TASKS
describe the origin of cultural studies and their (inter)disciplinary specificity	Basic definitions of discipline	Lecture and discussion	Exam
describe the internationalization of cultural studies after the beginnings in Birmingham	The early days of cultural studies: the Birmingham School (Richard Hoggart, Raymond Williams, E. P. Thompson, Stuart Hall); British cultural studies; Internationalization of cultural studies; American cultural studies	Lecture and discussion	Exam
describe the social, political and theoretical context that favors the spread of cultural studies (globalization, neoliberalism, postmodernism)	A brief history of neoliberalism, the emergence and development of postmodernism, the compatibility of cultural studies and the social circumstances of late capitalism	Lecture and discussion	Exam and Essay
Distinguish other social-humanistic disciplines such as sociology, sociolinguistics, ethnology, cultural anthropology, communication, mediaology, cultural history, etc.;ish between	Issues of similarities and differences with other social-humanistic disciplines such as sociology, sociolinguistics, ethnology, cultural anthropology, communication, mediaology, cultural history, etc.; generally about the scope of the discipline itself	Lecture and discussion	Exam and Essay
distinguish the main theoretical sources of cultural studies (Marxism, structuralism, Althusser, Gramsci, Foucault, poststructuralism, postmodernism)	Fundamental theoretical sources of cultural studies: Marxism (Gramsci), structuralist derivatives (Althusser), social constructivism, cultural relativism and anti-essentialism; cultural turn in social sciences and humanities, narrative turn in ethnography; poststructuralism and postmodernism, contemporary tendencies towards cognitivism	Lecture and discussion	Exam and Essay



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SYLLABUS

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE	
Course title	Introduction to Sociology
Study programme	Undergraduate study programme in Cultural Studies
Semester	Winter
Academic year	2024./2025.
ECTS credits	5
Contact hours (Lectures + Seminars + Practical work)	30 + 30 + 0
Time and venue of classes	According to schedule
Language of instruction	English
Course instructor	Dunja Matić Benčić
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I. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE OVERVIEW

- The Emergence and Development of Sociology: Enlightenment, Modernity, Social and Political Revolutions. Overview of the development of sociology: classical sociology, modern sociology, contemporary sociology.
- The Concept of Society: Mechanical and organic analogies, Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft, the concepts of system, structure, and culture. The individual and the collective, micro and macrosociology, action and structure. Key theoretical dichotomies: subjective and objective, ideal and material, continuity and change, facts and values, culture and nature, consensus and conflict. Epistemological and methodological issues in the study of society. Sociology and ideology (1,2,3,4,5).
- Culture and Socialization: Theories of socialization. Social identities. Primary and secondary identities. Social interaction and theories. Social groups and organizations. Collective behavior: relative deprivation and resource mobilization (5,6,7).
- Social Inequality: Different concepts of equality. Social differentiation and social stratification. Theories of stratification. Ethnic, gender, and global stratification. Historical changes in stratification patterns (5,6,7).

- Social Institutions: Family, religion, education, economic and political institutions, mass media (5,6,7).
- Social Change: Traditional and modern, science and technology, money and capital, nations and states. Theories of modernization and world systems. Globalization. Social movements, revolutions, and wars. Theories of postmodern society (5,6,7).

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon passing the exam, students will be able to:

1. Describe the socio-historical context of the emergence of sociology.
2. Explain the methodological challenges in the study of society compared to the natural sciences.
3. Distinguish the main conceptual dichotomies in sociological theory
4. Define the key themes of classical sociology
5. Identify the main differences and complementarities between sociological paradigms: functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism.
6. Compare different theories of socialization, collective behaviour, stratification, and social institutions.
7. Analyse phenomena from everyday life in light of these comparisons.

DELIVERY OF THE COURSE

Lectures	Seminars	Practical work	Independent work
x	x		x
Fieldwork	Laboratory work	Mentoring	Other
		x	

II. COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING CRITERIA

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT	ECTS CREDIT ALLOCATION	MAXIMUM POINTS (% OF TOTAL)
Class attendance	2	0
Class participation	1	25
Project-based assessment	1	25
Continuous assessment	0.5	20
Final exam	0.5	30
Other	/	/
TOTAL	5	100

Final grades will be determined as follows:

GRADE	UNDEGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMMES
5 (A)	90 – 100 % points
4 (B)	75 – 89.9 % points
3 (C)	60 – 74.9 % points
2 (D)	50 – 59.9 % points
1 (F)	0 – 49.9 % points

III. READING

REQUIRED TEXT

Ritzer, George, and Jeffrey Stepnisky. *Contemporary sociological theory and its classical roots: The basics*. Sage Publications, 2022.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS

Albrow, M., *Sociology: the Basics*, London 1999.
 Bauman, Z., *Thinking Sociologically*, Oxford 2001.
 Hughes, J.A., Sharrock W.W. & Martin, P.J., *Understanding Classical Sociology*, London, 2003.
 Jenkins, R., *Foundations of sociology*, Beckinstoke, 2002.
 Levine, D.N.: *Visions of the Sociological Tradition*, Chicago, 1995.
 Rigney, D.: *The Metaphorical Society: An Invitation to Social Theory*, Lanham, 2001.
 Schwalbe, M., *The Sociologically Examined Life*, London 2001.
 Seidman, S., *Contested Knowledge: Social Theory Today*, Malden, 2004.
 Sharrock W.W., Hughes, J.A., & Martin, P.J., *Understanding Modern Sociology*, London, 2003.
 Turner, B.S.: *Classical Sociology*, London, 1999.

IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE

Recommended but not obligatory

COURSE NOTIFICATIONS

COURSE INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

Via email: dunja.matic@ffri.uniri.hr

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Academic honesty policy

Any use of texts or other types of work by another author, as well as the use of ChatGPT or other tools whose function is based on AI technology, without a clear and unambiguous citation of the source is considered a violation of academic integrity principles, and is a serious offence regulated by the Ordinance on Student Responsibilities.

EXAM DATES

Winter	
Summer	
Autumn	

V. COURSE OUTLINE (optional)

DATE	TOPIC
Week 1	Historical overview of sociological themes
Week 2	Historical overview of sociological themes
Week 3	Midterm 1
Week 4	Structural functionalism, neofunctionalism, conflict theory
Week 5	Symbolic Interactionism
Week 6	Ethnomethodology
Week 7	Contemporary sociological themes
Week 8	Midterm
Week 9	Selected seminar topics
Week 10	Selected seminar topics
Week 11	Selected seminar topics
Week 12	Selected seminar topics

Week 13	Presentations
Week 14	Make up exam
Week 15	

VI. CONSTRUCTIVE ALIGNMENT			
LEARNING OUTCOMES	CONTENT	TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT TASKS
Describe the socio-historical context of the emergence of sociology	The emergence and development of sociology: modernity, Enlightenment, romanticism, social and political revolutions. Overview of the development of sociology: classical sociology, modern sociology, contemporary sociology	Lectures, discussion	Midterm and seminar
Explain methodological difficulties in studying society compared to natural sciences, distinguish the main conceptual dichotomies in sociological theory (e.g., Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft, micro and macro, action and structure, etc.), define basic themes of classical sociology (Marx, Durkheim, Weber)	The concept of society: mechanical and organic analogies, Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft, concepts of systems, structures, and culture. Individual and collective, micro and macro sociology, action and structure. Important theoretical dichotomies: subjective and objective, ideal and material, continuity and change, facts and values, culture and nature, consensus and conflict. Epistemological and methodological problems of studying society. Sociology and ideology	Lectures, discussion	Midterm and seminar
Identify the main differences and complementarities between sociological paradigms: functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism, compare different theories of socialization, collective behavior, stratification, and social institutions; analyze phenomena from everyday life in the light of these	Identify the main differences and complementarities between sociological paradigms: functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism, compare different theories of socialization, collective behavior,	Lectures, discussion	Midterm and seminar

comparisons	stratification, and social institutions; analyze phenomena from everyday life in the light of these comparisons		
Recognize the main differences and complementarities between sociological paradigms: functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism	Social change: traditional and modern, science and technology, money and capital, nations and states. Theories of modernization and world systems. Globalization. Social movements, revolutions, and wars. Theories of postmodern society	Lectures, discussion	Midterm and seminar
Recognize the main differences and complementarities between sociological paradigms: functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism, compare different theories of socialization, collective behaviour, stratification, and social institutions; analyse phenomena from everyday life in the light of these comparisons	Social change: traditional and modern, science and technology, money and capital, nations and states. Theories of modernization and world systems. Globalization. Social movements, revolutions, and wars. Theories of postmodern society	Lectures, discussion	Midterm and seminar



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SYLLABUS

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE	
Course title	Methodology Research in Cultural Studies
Study programme	Undergraduate study program in Cultural Studies
Semester	Winter
Academic year	2024./2025.
ECTS credits	5
Contact hours (Lectures + Seminars + Practical work)	30 + 0 + 30
Time and venue of classes	According to schedule
Language of instruction	English
Course instructor	Dunja Matić Benčić
Office number	815
Office hours	Mondays from 10 am to 3 pm
Phone	00385 51 265
Email	dunja.matic@ffri.uniri.hr

I. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE OVERVIEW

General introduction to research methods in social sciences, differences between quantitative and qualitative methodology, and introduction to research strategies appropriate for cultural studies: narrative and discursive analyses, ethnography, phenomenology, case study and action research. In other words, the course offers research strategies (methodologies and methods) that can be used in the research of material as well as immaterial aspects of culture, including a wide range of possible objects of investigation from popular culture to everyday norms and conventions. The course is focused on qualitative research strategies.

The course is divided into two parts. The first part is theoretical, through which the students will learn about the main research strategies that can be used in Cultural studies. The second part of the course is more practical, where the students will, through weekly sessions with the mentor, go through all stages of the research process and learn how to plan, conduct and write up their own research. These stages include: desk analyses, research question formulation, field

work, data collection, data analyses, research report.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon passing the exam, students will be able to:

- Distinguish between research strategies, methods, and philosophical-theoretical frameworks applicable in cultural studies.
- Define criteria for selecting an appropriate research strategy and methods based on the research problem.
- Develop precise formulation of positions, engage in reasoned debate, and respect differing viewpoints.
- Analyse research on cultural phenomena according to the criteria of reliability, validity, and objectivity
- Independently conduct a small-scale research study.

DELIVERY OF THE COURSE

Lectures	Seminars	Practical work	Independent work
x	x		x
Fieldwork	Laboratory work	Mentoring	Other
		x	

II. COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING CRITERIA

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT	ECTS CREDIT ALLOCATION	MAXIMUM POINTS (% OF TOTAL)
Class attendance	2	0
Class participation	1	25
Project-based assessment	1	25
Continuous assessment	0,5	20
Final exam	0,5	30
Other	/	/
TOTAL		100

Final grades will be determined as follows:

GRADE	UNDEGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMMES
5 (A)	90 – 100 % points
4 (B)	75 – 89.9 % points
3 (C)	60 – 74.9 % points
2 (D)	50 – 59.9 % points
1 (F)	0 – 49.9 % points

III. READING

REQUIRED TEXT

- Denscombe, M. (2010): “The Good Research Guide (for small-scale social research projects)”, Open University Press, New York
- Pickering M. (2008): “Research Methods for Cultural Studies”; Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS

- Creswell, J.W. (2007): “Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design (choosing among five approaches)”, Sage Publications, London, New Delhi

IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
ATTENDANCE	
Recommendable not obligatory	
COURSE NOTIFICATIONS	
Via email: dunja.matic@ffri.uniri.hr	
COURSE INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION	
Via email: dunja.matic@ffri.uniri.hr	
FINAL EXAM INFO	
<p>Continuous Knowledge Assessment – Midterm Exam During the course, two midterm exams will be held to assess students' knowledge. The first exam will cover the material on research strategies, while the second exam will address research methods and the theoretical-philosophical frameworks of research. The first exam will take place in the 5th week of classes, and the second exam in the 10th week. Each exam will consist of 5 essay-type questions, with each question worth 5 points.</p> <p>Retake of the Midterm Exam There will be no retakes for the midterm exams. Students who are unable to attend the exam on the scheduled date will have the opportunity to take the exam during the last class of the semester.</p> <p>Research As this is a methodological course, conducting research is the most important task that students will complete. Theoretical knowledge will be tested through midterm exams (colloquia), while the research project will serve as the final exam. Students will be divided into four groups, each focusing on a broader research area. Each broader topic will be subdivided into smaller, specific research problems and associated research methods. Within their group, students will choose one research problem and, with weekly mentoring, conduct the research. Weekly group meetings are a mandatory part of the course. If a student is unable to attend a consultation, an individual meeting can be arranged.</p> <p>FINAL GRADE DETERMINATION: The final grade will be determined based on the points earned from the two midterm exams (50 points), class participation, including attendance at weekly consultations (20 points), and the conducted research (30 points).</p>	
OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	
<p>Academic honesty policy</p> <p>Any use of texts or other types of work by another author, as well as the use of ChatGPT or other tools whose function is based on AI technology, without a clear and unambiguous citation of the source is considered a violation of academic integrity principles, and is a serious offence regulated by the Ordinance on Student Responsibilities.</p>	
EXAM DATES	
Winter	
Summer	
Autumn	

V. COURSE OUTLINE (optional)	
DATE	TOPIC
Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Narrative and discursive analyses
Week 3	Ethnography and Phenomenology
Week 4	Case study and Action Research
Week 5	Midterm exam
Week 6	Interviews

Week 7	Observation and Participant Observation
Week 8	Coding – exercise
Week 9	Coding – exercise
Week 10	Midterm exam
Week 11	Research
Week 12	Research
Week 13	Research
Week 14	Research
Week 15	Presentation

VI. CONSTRUCTIVE ALIGNMENT			
LEARNING OUTCOMES	CONTENT	TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT TASKS
Distinguish research strategies, methods, and philosophical-theoretical frameworks applicable in cultural studies	General introduction to the emergence, work, and development of cultural studies; overview of methodological approaches adopted by cultural studies from other disciplines, and how these approaches have been applied in the context of cultural studies.	(According to the literature: Pickering M. (2008): "Research Methods for Cultural Studies")	Lecture Discussion
Define criteria for selecting an appropriate research strategy and methods based on the research problem	Familiarization with basic methods, research strategies, and philosophical/theoretical frameworks in qualitative research, and linking the acquired methods, strategies, and theoretical frameworks to chosen research questions.	(According to the literature: Creswell, J.W. (2007): "Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design")	Lecture Discussion
Develop precise formulation of positions, engage in reasoned debate, and respect differing viewpoints	Students will independently choose research problems according to their own preferences and interests, and engage in moderated group discussions during classes throughout each phase of research (topic selection – formulation of research questions – choice of research strategy and methods – implementation of methods – data analysis – structure of the research report).	Lecture Discussion	Continuous Knowledge Assessment
Analyze research on cultural phenomena according to the criteria of reliability, validity, and objectivity	In-depth study and discussion of research examples from the literature (Pickering M. (2008): "Research Methods for Cultural Studies"), as well as critical analysis of scientific articles (research reports)	Lecture Discussion	Continuous Knowledge Assessment
Independently conduct a small-scale research study	Throughout the course, students will go through all stages of research work (topic selection – selection of research strategy and methods – theoretical review – formulation of research question – implementation of methods – writing the research report) according to the provided literature: Denscombe, M. (2010): "The Good Research Guide (for small-scale social research projects)".	Research Presentation	Research Report/Seminar