

COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	Social Sciences		
ACADEMIC UNIT	Sociology		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	Undergraduate		
COURSE CODE	637	SEMESTER	3 rd
COURSE TITLE	Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES <i>if credits are awarded for separate components of the course, e.g. lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If the credits are awarded for the whole of the course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits</i>		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	CREDITS
		3	6
<i>Add rows if necessary. The organisation of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail at (d).</i>			
COURSE TYPE <i>general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development</i>	Compulsory Elective/General Background		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	None		
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	Yes (written essay in English)		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)			

(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

<p>Learning outcomes</p> <p><i>The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competences of an appropriate level, which the students will acquire with the successful completion of the course are described.</i></p> <p><i>Consult Appendix A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area</i> • <i>Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B</i> • <i>Guidelines for writing Learning Outcomes</i> 								
<p>By attending the course and studying the suggested bibliographical sources, it is expected that by the end of the semester students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understand the main concepts and theoretical approaches of the sociology of risk and certainty, - get to know the transformations that take place from the modernization of the industrial society of early modernity to the reflexive modernization of the "second" modernity and the risk society, - reflect on the way in which risk societies are shaped in the framework of globalization and Cosmopolitanism. 								
<p>General Competences</p> <p><i>Taking into consideration the general competences that the degree-holder must acquire (as these appear in the Diploma Supplement and appear below), at which of the following does the course aim?</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><i>Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology</i></td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><i>Project planning and management</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><i>Adapting to new situations</i></td> <td style="border: none;"><i>Respect for difference and multiculturalism</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><i>Decision-making</i></td> <td style="border: none;"><i>Respect for the natural environment</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"><i>Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology</i>	<i>Project planning and management</i>	<i>Adapting to new situations</i>	<i>Respect for difference and multiculturalism</i>	<i>Decision-making</i>	<i>Respect for the natural environment</i>		<i>Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and</i>
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<i>Decision-making</i>	<i>Respect for the natural environment</i>							
	<i>Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and</i>							

<i>Working independently</i>	<i>sensitivity to gender issues</i>
<i>Team work</i>	<i>Criticism and self-criticism</i>
<i>Working in an international environment</i>	<i>Production of free, creative and inductive thinking</i>
<i>Working in an interdisciplinary environment</i>
<i>Production of new research ideas</i>	<i>Others...</i>

- Criticism and self-criticism.
- Demonstrate social, professional and ethical responsibility, as well as sensitivity regarding gender issues.
- Generation of new research ideas
- Promotion of free, creative and inductive thinking
- Respect for diversity and multiculturalism

(3) SYLLABUS

The course introduces students to sociology of risk and uncertainty. The starting point of the course is the tracing of the discontinuities of modernity and the antinomies of globalization and cosmopolitisation. Also, a sociological interpretation of the terms of risks – hazards is attempted. The first part of the course has a theoretical orientation, aiming at an overall sociological interpretation of the characteristics of modern societies through Niklas Luhmann's analysis on the concept of risk in the light of the theory of social systems, Ulrich Beck's analysis on risk society, the contribution of Anthony Giddens and Scott Lash on the risks of reflexive modernity, as well as Zygmunt Bauman's on fluid modernity and life in the age of uncertainty. Combined with the above, Michel Foucault's thinking is utilized in relation to governmentality, particularly as it is produced in risk society conditions. Special focus is given to the outline of the risk society and issues related to the individualization of social inequality, generalization of science and politics etc., resulting in ongoing and future challenges of the global risk society. The above forms the bridge for the thematics developed in the second part of the course, which focuses on contemporary fields of study and research in the sociology of risk and uncertainty, through examples like: work, climate crises, pandemics, crises, global organ trade etc., composing the portrait of the global risk society. Furthermore, the course attempts to outline future risks and precarious life situations as produced in the age of genetic engineering, artificial intelligence/algorithms/big data, humanoid robots, space colonization and metaverse. Special focus is given to the crucial social transformations taking place through recent techno-scientific developments, through which the boundaries between the physical, virtual/digital, biological and social worlds are becoming fluid and unpredictable.

Week 1: Syllabus presentation and introduction to the content of the course.

Part 1: Theoretical approaches

Week 2: Discontinuities of modernity. Sociological conceptual clarification: risks, hazards, uncertainties.

Week 3: The risk based on Niklas Luhmann's social systems theory.

Week 4: The outline of risk society in the thought of Ulrich Beck.

Week 5: Anthony Giddens, Scott Lash's, Zygmunt Bauman's and Michel Foucault's contributions.

Week 6: Aspects of the individualization of social inequality.

Week 7: Reflexive modernization: on the generalization of science and politics.

Part 2: Contemporary study and research fields

Week 8: The risks at Work.

Week 9: Climate crisis and the Anthropocene.

Week 10: Epidemics/pandemics.

Week 11: Risk society, Cosmopolitisation and the 'Global Other'.

Week 12: The "transgressions" and the "future" of risk society.

Week 13: Summary of the course modules and reflection.

(4) TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

DELIVERY <i>Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.</i>	Face-to-face	
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY <i>Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with students</i>	Use of ICT in teaching and communication with students	
TEACHING METHODS <i>The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail. Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, project, essay writing, artistic creativity, etc. The student's study hours for each learning activity are given as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Semester workload</i>
	Lectures	39 hours
	Study during semester	75 hours
	Study for examination	33 hours
	Examination	3 hours
	Course total (25 hours per ECTS)	150 hours (6 ECTS)
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION <i>Description of the evaluation procedure Language of evaluation, methods of evaluation, summative or conclusive, multiple choice questionnaires, short-answer questions, open-ended questions, problem solving, written work, essay/report, oral examination, public presentation, laboratory work, clinical examination of patient, art interpretation, other Specifically-defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.</i>	<p>Language of evaluation: Greek and English (in the case of foreign exchange students).</p> <p>Methods of evaluation: Written exams.</p> <p>Evaluation criteria: Understanding the content of the course.</p>	

(5) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Suggested bibliography:

a) Basic Textbooks

- Bauman Z. (2009). *Ρευστοί Καιροί: Η ζωή στην εποχή της αβεβαιότητας*. Αθήνα: Μεταίχμιο.
 Beck, U. (2015). *Κοινωνία της διακινδύνευσης. Καθ' οδόν προς μια άλλη νεωτερικότητα*. Αθήνα: Πεδίο.
 Elliott, A. (2021). *Σύγχρονη κοινωνική θεωρία. Μια εισαγωγή*. Αθήνα: Πεδίο.

b) Additional References

- Beck, U. (2011). We do not Live in an Age of Cosmopolitanism but in an Age of Cosmopolitisation: The 'Global Other' is in Our Midst. *Irish Journal of Sociology*, 19(1), 16-34.
 Beck, U., Giddens, A., & Scott, L. (1994). *Reflexive Modernization. Politics, tradition and aesthetics in the modern social order*. Cambridge: Polity.
 Burgess, A., Alemanno A., and Zinn J. (2016) (eds.). *The Routledge Handbook of Risk Studies*. London: Routledge.
 Giddens, A. (2001). *Οι Συνέπειες της Νεωτερικότητας*. Αθήνα: Κριτική.
 Μαρκαντωνάτου Μ., Σαββάκης, Μ., και Κουρούτζας, Χ. (2022). Εμβολιασμός και «νέα κανονικότητα»: Πανδημική συνθήκη και κοινωνία της διακινδύνευσης. Στο: Μ. Σαββάκης (επιμ.) *Η Πανδημική συνθήκη. Δι-επιστημονικές προσεγγίσεις και ερμηνευτικές συνθέσεις* (σσ. 229-246). Αθήνα: Ινστιτούτο του Βιβλίου-Καρδαμίτσα.
 Luhmann, N. (2005). *Risk. A Sociological Theory*. London: Routledge.

- Related academic journals:

American Journal of Sociology
BioSocieties
European Journal of Sociology
Επιθεώρηση Κοινωνικών Ερευνών
Health, Risk & Society
Journal of Risk Research
Κρίση
Risk Analysis
Science, Technology and Human Values
Sociology