

Dynamics of Social Groups

LEVEL	SEMESTER	ECTS	FORMAT	LANGUAGE
Bachelor - Master	Winter	4 ECTS	Lectures and seminars	English

Course description

This course introduces students to key concepts and perspectives in microsociology, focusing on social interaction and the dynamics of everyday social life. It examines how individuals develop their identities, understand social situations and construct social reality through interaction with others. The course explores verbal and non-verbal communication, roles, emotions, cognition and the management of impressions, as well as major interpretive approaches to the study of everyday social interactions.

Main topics

- Introduction to microsociology and social interaction
- Symbolic interactionism: George Herbert Mead
- Symbolic interactionism: Herbert Blumer and Charles Horton Cooley
- Strategic interactionism and dramaturgical sociology: Erving Goffman
- Ethnomethodology and the organization of everyday life
- Phenomenology and the concept of the lifeworld
- The social construction of reality
- Roles, socialization and role identity
- Cognitive approaches in sociology
- Sociology of emotions
- Conversation and communication in social interaction
- Sociology of everyday life and social interaction

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand key concepts, theories and perspectives in microsociology
- explain the importance of social interaction for individual and social life
- analyse everyday social interactions from a microsociological perspective
- apply symbolic interactionist and other interpretive approaches to social phenomena
- understand how identities and social roles are constructed through interaction
- analyse verbal and non-verbal communication, emotions and impression management
- understand the social construction of reality and the role of shared meanings
- apply microsociological concepts to the analysis of everyday situations
- critically compare different approaches to understanding social interaction and everyday life
- use basic interpretive sociological approaches in the analysis of social interactions

Teaching methods

Lectures, seminars, discussions, analysis of everyday social situations, individual and group work, student presentations and independent reading.

Assessment

Active participation, ongoing assignments based on the course literature, and a presentation on a selected topic.