

Youth and Subcultural Identities

LEVEL	SEMESTER	ECTS	FORMAT	LANGUAGE
Bachelor - Master	Winter	3 ECTS	Lectures and seminars	English

Course description

This course introduces students to the sociology of youth and the study of youth subcultures in contemporary society. It examines youth as a specific social category and explores the social, cultural and developmental factors shaping young people's identities, values and lifestyles. Particular attention is given to youth subcultures, their historical development, social functions and contemporary transformations in the context of globalization, digitalization and social change. The course presents classical and contemporary sociological approaches to youth and subcultures and discusses current challenges affecting young people.

Main topics

- Introduction to the sociology of youth: definitions of youth, social status of youth, age categories and socialization processes.
- Developmental and social characteristics of youth: adolescence, identity formation, self-determination, risk behaviour, family, school and peer groups.
- Youth in social context: social inequalities, media and technology, civic and political participation, cultural globalization.
- Youth subcultures: definitions, characteristics and major youth subcultures of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
- Theoretical approaches to subcultures: Chicago School, Birmingham School, postmodern perspectives, symbolic interactionism and labelling theory.
- Youth and deviance: juvenile delinquency, prevention, social programmes, addictions and the role of educational and social institutions.
- Contemporary trends and challenges: online subcultures, youth activism, post-pandemic society, individualization and the future of subcultures.

Learning outcomes

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

- understand and explain key concepts in the sociology of youth
- identify and compare classical and contemporary theoretical approaches to youth studies
- recognize different types of youth subcultures and analyse their social and cultural significance
- understand the influence of social institutions on youth identity formation and behaviour
- critically analyse youth subcultures and their role in shaping identities, values and social attitudes
- examine the relationship between youth, social inequalities and processes of social change
- analyse deviant behaviour and risks associated with adolescence and youth cultures
- understand emerging forms of online subcultures and contemporary youth activism
- apply sociological theories and concepts to the analysis of youth-related phenomena in contemporary society

Teaching methods

Lectures, seminars, discussions, analysis of academic texts, written reflections, presentations and case studies focusing on youth cultures and contemporary social issues.

Assessment

Active participation in seminars and discussions, written reflections on assigned readings, continuous assessment of coursework, and a final oral examination. Students are required to complete approximately written reflection papers during the semester. The final grade is based on final presentation.