



University of Crete
School of Social, Economic and Political Sciences

Department of Sociology
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School of Social, Economic & Political Sciences Department of Sociology

Organization of the Department

Establishment of the Department:

The Department of Sociology belongs to the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Crete. It was founded in 1984 and admitted its first students and in the academic year 1987-1988.

Department Administration: The Chairperson of the Department of Sociology is Professor Ioannis Zaimakis. The decision-making body for the operation of the Sociology Department is the Faculty Meeting.

Structure and function of the Department: In order to best coordinate research and teaching activities, the Department is organized into three (3) Sections, which operate informally. Teaching staff is distributed along these Sections. Each Section coordinates the organization and teaching of courses that correspond to specific fields of Sociology:

• Social Theory and Methods

This Section covers subjects such as the history of sociological theories, classical and contemporary social theory, social and political philosophy, epistemology of the social sciences, and methods of the social sciences.

• Social Organization and Change

This Section comprises the sub-disciplines of the sociology of the state and of organizations, the sociology of the family, social classes and strata, social demography, urban sociology, rural sociology, environmental sociology, sociology of bureaucracy, and business and economic sociology. It also covers the theories of social change and development public policy (with emphasis on the welfare state), local political organization, social movements, political parties, interest groups, the political sociology of European integration, migration and theories globalization.

• Culture

The Culture Section covers the sociology of culture, social anthropology, social history, the sociology of work, the sociology of education and learning, and ideology and culture. It also covers a range of subjects related to socialization and social control, the sociology of religion, the sociology of youth, the sociology of literature, the sociology of art, communication, and the sociology of minorities.

Faculty Members:

Achimastos Myron, Professor, Sociology of Culture, Ideology and Culture
Alexakis Emmanuel, Assistant Professor, Political Sociology: Political Parties

Arapoglou Vassilis, Assistant Professor, Sociology of Inequalities and Social Exclusion
Fournaraki Eleni, Associate Professor, Contemporary Social History
Gounis Kostas, Assistant Professor, Urban Anthropology
Kalogeraki Stefania, Assistant Professor, Quantitative Methods in Sociology
Karakioulafi Christina, Assistant Professor, Sociology of Industrial Relations
Koniordos Sokratis, Professor of Sociology, with an emphasis in Economic Sociology
Konstantinidou Christina, Associate Professor, Sociology of the Mass Media
Koumbourlis Yiannis, Assistant Professor, Historical Sociology of Contemporary Greek Society
Kousis Maria, Professor, Sociology Development and Environment
Lavranu Aliko, Professor, Social and Political Philosophy
Mouzakitis, Angelos, Assistant Professor, Social Theory
Petoussi Vassiliki, Assistant Professor, Sociology of Law and Deviance
Petropoulou Eugenia, Lecturer, Social Transformations in Contemporary Rural Space
Romanos Vassilis, Assistant Professor, Social Theory
Samatas Minas, Professor, Political Sociology of the Modern Greek State
Serdedakis Nikos, Assistant Professor, Sociology of Collective Action and Social Movements
Skoulariki, Athina, Lecturer, Sociology of Communication: Discourse Analysis and Social Representations
Tsiolis Giorgos, Associate Professor, Qualitative Methods in Sociological Research
Tzanakis Manolis, Assistant Professor, Sociology of Illness and Medical Institutions
Zaimakis Yiannis, Professor, Sociology of Local Societies and Culture
Zambarloukou Stella, Associate Professor, Sociology of Development

Retired Faculty Members:

Halaris Yiorgos, Associate Professor, Sociology of Development
Moschonas Andreas, Professor, Political Sociology
Papageorgiou Yota, Professor, Social Sciences Research Methods and Gender Studies
Papaioannou Skevos, Emeritus Professor, Sociology of Work and Sociology of Education.
Yiannisopoulou Maria, Assistant Professor, Sociology of Immigration.

Admission procedures

According to the legislative provisions of the Greek Ministry of Education, admission to the Sociology Department is determined through the National Examination System.

Each academic year, the Sociology Department also admits, through written qualifying examinations, a limited number of University and Technical Education Institutes graduates or holders of recognized diplomas from abroad, in accordance with applicable legal provisions.

Students who enter the Department through this provision may apply for the recognition and inclusion in the sum of required courses towards for the Sociology Department degree courses they successfully completed in earning their previous degree. The number of courses thus recognized cannot exceed one third of the required courses for the Sociology Department degree. Such applications are subject to approval by the Faculty Meeting of the Department.

Objectives of the Department of Sociology

Educational and research objectives:

Sociology is an empirically oriented social science that studies social phenomena in a historical and contemporary perspective. The objective of the curriculum is to equip students with the theoretical

and methodological foundations of sociology, as well as enable them to utilize the methods of sociological research. The curriculum is oriented towards the development of autonomous and reflexive sociological thinking in the scientific analysis of social problems and great emphasis is placed on developing students' ability to reflect on the effects of their activity in social reality. The Department's aim is to provide a theoretically and methodologically grounded education with critical knowledge about the social structure, social interaction, and social institutions. Studies in the Sociology Department are structured in such a way as to ensure a wide sociological knowledge, knowledge in particular fields of sociology, and knowledge from other related disciplines of the social sciences.

Career objectives:

Graduates of the Sociology Department can be employed as teachers in secondary education, in local administration authorities, in the wider public sector, and in the private sector. A major asset of the graduates of the Sociology Department when seeking a position in the labor market lies in their capacities as scientists with the appropriate skills to approach contemporary social issues and to formulate and implement research projects that scientifically document and propose ways for dealing with social problems. Sociology graduates are equipped with specialized knowledge that allows them to study changes in social structure in a comparative dimension and to interpret the perceptions and practices adopted by various social groups and social categories of citizens. Towards this end, the curriculum of the Sociology Department places great emphasis on subjects relating to the mastering of current qualitative and quantitative methods of sociological research. In sum, graduates of the Sociology Department are able to seek employment related to the scientific organization and operation of various social institutions and services.

Access to further studies

Graduates of the Sociology Department are qualified to pursue postgraduate studies in the social sciences, either in specific professional fields, or in academically-oriented directions.

Curriculum of the Undergraduate Studies Program

Summary of the Curriculum

The curriculum includes a number of courses covering the wider field of Sociology: theory and methods of sociology, as well as theoretical and analytical knowledge in various sub-fields of the discipline. The Department's strategy is to develop and offer courses that are not only of an introductory- theoretical nature, but have more analytical, empirical, and comparative content.

The Department's Curriculum and the courses it contains, enables students to select and formulate their own individual program of studies. To facilitate this process, the Department has structured the Curriculum based on the following criteria:

- the degree of difficulty and complexity of the course
- the availability of courses that from an epistemological and pedagogical perspective function as prerequisites for selecting other, more complex or more specialized, courses
- The availability of courses offering the absolutely necessary sociological basis for each student of Sociology.

Based on these criteria, the courses are divided into two groups: (a) Mandatory Courses (ΥΠΟ) and (b) Direction Courses (ΥΕΚ, ΥΕΠ, ΥΕΣ).

A. Mandatory Courses (ΥΠΟ)

The Curriculum includes eleven (11) required courses designed to provide basic methodological tools, knowledge and the frame of reference of Sociology and the Social Sciences in general, and an introduction to major sub-fields of the discipline. These core courses aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the wider discipline of Sociology and to facilitate the transition to specific thematic areas, or Directions, that make up the curriculum. All students must complete successfully these Required Courses.

B. Required Core Courses (YEK)

The Required Core Courses cover systematic thematic areas within the broader discipline of Sociology. They offer the possibility of a more comprehensive understanding of these sub-fields and provide students a greater degree of flexibility in choosing their area of specialization.

The Directions are the following four (4):

1. Social Theory - Methodology
2. Social Development - Social Transformation
3. Political Sociology
4. Culture - Labor - Education

C. Required Elective Courses (YEP)

These courses constitute the bulk of the subjects contained in the four Directions. When deemed necessary, instructors can determine whether the successful completion of prerequisites is a condition for enrollment in these courses.

D. Required Elective Seminars (YEX)

Seminars are characterized by the relative specialization of the course's subject. They require active student participation in the course, through oral presentations of specific topics and the submission of written assignments. The number of students who can enroll in seminars is limited, ranging from five (5) to twenty (20). Seminars, along with their respective prerequisites, function as an effective means for building student ability to conduct and present independent research, under the guidance and supervision of the instructor.

E. Inter-Departmental Elective Courses (EAE)

Students are offered the option to enroll in courses of their interest that are offered by other Departments of the University of Crete or, with the approval of the General Assembly of the Sociology Department, from other Universities or Technical Education Institutes, in Greece or abroad.

F. Foreign Language

The department offers the four-term Core Course "English for Sociology". By the end of their studies, students must have developed adequate linguistic skills in the English language so as to be able to understand sociological texts. Alternatively, students, already proficient in English may choose to learn another language (French, German, Italian, Spanish), offered at the School of Social Sciences, or another School of the University of Crete.

G. Internship

Internships offer a significant opportunity to link theoretical knowledge with empirical reality through student placement at agencies, mostly public services that participate in the program and deal with issues relevant to the academic subjects taught at the Sociology Department. Through the Internship Program, students are trained in real working conditions and are in a position to acquire valuable work experience. Additionally, the Internship Program mobilizes interest by public and private agencies and companies and contributes towards the development of a network of contacts that can support the

integration of Sociology Department graduates to the labor market. Internships are optional and can be approved after the third year of study.

H. Senior Thesis

The Senior Thesis is optional and is equivalent to two (2) Required Elective Courses (YEΠ) and one (1) Required Elective Seminar (YES). Upon the recommendation of the faculty member that is to serve as supervisor, the Senior Thesis proposal is subject to approval by the General Assembly of the Sociology Department. Senior Thesis proposals can be submitted by students who are short of 10 or less courses from the total number of courses required for graduation. The subject matter of the Senior Thesis must relate to the student's academic development, as reflected by the courses he/she has completed so far. The completion of the Senior Thesis extends over a two-semester period.

Course Duration:

The duration of the academic semester for each course offered is thirteen (13) weeks. Each class meeting, for both lecture courses and seminars, lasts for three hours per week.

Course Categories and ECTS:

A. Mandatory Courses (ΥΠΟ):			
Category of Course	Number of Courses	ECTS per Course	Total ECTS per Category
Lecture and Tutorial	11	8	88
Foreign language	4	5	20
B. Required Core Courses (YEΚ):			
Category of Course	Number of Courses	ECTS per Course	Total ECTS per Category
Lecture	4	5	20
C. Required Elective Courses (YEΠ):			
Category of Course	Number of Courses	ECTS per Course	Total ECTS per Category
Lecture	13	5	65
D. Required Elective Seminars (YES):			
Category of Course	Number of Courses	ECTS per Course	Total ECTS per Category
Seminar	5	7	35
E. Inter-Departmental Elective Courses (Elective – if not chosen, must be substituted by Required Elective and/or Core Courses)			
Category of Course	Number of Courses	ECTS per Course	Total ECTS per Category
Courses	3	5	15
F. Senior Thesis (Optional – Corresponds to one seminar and two Optional Courses)			
Category of Course	Number of Courses	ECTS per Course	Total ECTS per Category
Senior Thesis	1	17	17

G. Internship (Optional – Corresponds to one Required Elective Course)			
Category of Course	Number of Courses	ECTS per Course	Total ECTS per Category
Internship	1	5	5
Total Number of Courses and ECTS required for Degree			
	40 Courses		Total ECTS 243

Required Core Courses (YEK) can also be declared as Required Elective Courses (YEΠ). Seminars and the Internship Course can be declared from the 3rd year of undergraduate studies and onwards.
The Senior Thesis can be declared from the 4th year of undergraduate studies and onwards.

NOTE1: Inter-Departmental Optional courses (ELE) are optional and can be chosen in the place of Sociology Department Optional courses. As mentioned above, the Senior Thesis and the Internship are optional as well.

NOTE2: For students admitted from academic year 2002-2003 up to, and including, 2013-2014, the total number of courses required for the completion of their studies was 46, for a total of 240 ECTS. Distributed as follows: eleven (11) Mandatory Courses (ΥΠΟ), four (4) terms of English for Sociology (or another language), three (3) Required Core Courses (YEK, of Directions 2, 3, 4), Sixteen (16) Required Elective Courses (YEΠ), Six (6) Required Elective Seminars, up to Six (6) Inter-Departmental Elective courses (EΛE).

ECTS through the Erasmus Programme:

The Sociology Department participates in the European Union "Socrates/Erasmus" program, relating to the exchange of teaching staff and students. The Department recognizes courses that were successfully completed at other European universities in the framework of this program.

Examination periods

Under current law, the Dean of the School of Social Sciences designates the examination periods, at the end of each semester. An additional period is set at the beginning of the academic year, in September, for all courses offered during the two semesters of the previous academic year.

Degree Requirements:

In principle, students can complete their studies and obtain a degree in Sociology in eight (8) semesters. During the period of their studies students must complete a total of forty (40) semester courses (36 courses in sociology and related disciplines plus 4 semester courses in a foreign language). Marking is performed on a scale ranging from one to ten, five (5) being the lowest passing grade and ten (10) the highest mark.

Course Distribution

The types of courses, a total of 40, required for the award of the Sociology Department degree are distributed as follows:

- eleven (11) Mandatory Courses (ΥΠΟ)
- four (4) terms of English for Sociology (or another language)
- four (4) Required Core Courses (YEK)
- Thirteen (13) to nineteen (19) Required Elective Courses (YEΠ)
- five (5) Required Elective Seminars (YEΣ)
- up to three (3) Inter-Departmental Elective courses (EΛE)