

COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	Social Sciences		
ACADEMIC UNIT	Sociology		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	Undergraduate		
COURSE CODE	THEOK 324	SEMESTER	6th and over
COURSE TITLE	Systems Theory (seminar)		
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>	Skills Development (seminar)		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	All core social theory courses		
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	Yes (on a one to one basis, in English).		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)	https://elearn.uoc.gr/course/view.php?id=1138		

(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"> • Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area • Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B • Guidelines for writing Learning Outcomes
<p>Students will be able to</p> <p>(a) Demonstrate analytical engagement with primary texts, ideas, theoretical debates and practices related to the module's content (see above)</p> <p>(b) Demonstrate depth of knowledge and rigorous understanding in relation to theoretical perspectives, concepts and ideas</p> <p>(c) Demonstrate requisite research skills in the analysis of theoretical perspectives, concepts and ideas</p>

General Competences <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>	
<i>Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology</i> <i>Adapting to new situations</i> <i>Decision-making</i> <i>Working independently</i> <i>Team work</i> <i>Working in an international environment</i> <i>Working in an interdisciplinary environment</i> <i>Production of new research ideas</i>	<i>Project planning and management</i> <i>Respect for difference and multiculturalism</i> <i>Respect for the natural environment</i> <i>Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues</i> <i>Criticism and self-criticism</i> <i>Production of free, creative and inductive thinking</i> <i>.....</i> <i>Others...</i> <i>.....</i>
Working independently Team work Respect for difference and multiculturalism Respect for the natural environment Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues Criticism and self-criticism Production of free, creative and inductive thinking	

(3) SYLLABUS

<p>The seminar proceeds through the close reading of key texts of both Parsons and Luhmann with the aim to provide a critical evaluation of systems theory, always with a view to its prospects and possible limitations. To this end we also examine theoretical perspectives that developed critical positions in relation to systems theories, such as Habermas's <i>Theory of Communicative Action</i> and Giddens's <i>Structuration Theory</i>. [Please note that although the language of instruction is Greek, our weekly readings are mainly in English].</p> <p>Indicative Outline (subject to changes)</p> <p>Week 1 An Introduction to systems theory</p> <p>Week 2 Talcot Parsons, <i>The Social System</i>, ch. 1, 2, 3, 4</p> <p>Week 3 Talcot Parsons, <i>The Social System</i>, ch. 5, 6, 7, 8</p> <p>Week 4 Talcot Parsons, <i>The Social System</i>, ch. 9, 10, 11, 12</p> <p>Week 5 Robert Merton, <i>Social Theory and Social Structure</i>, part I</p>
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Week 6

Robert Merton, *Social Theory and Social Structure*, part II

Week 7

Niklas Luhmann, *Social Systems*, ch. 1, 2, 3, 4

Niklas Luhmann, *Θεωρία των Κοινωνικών Συστημάτων*, κεφ. 1, 2, 5.

Week 8

Niklas Luhmann, *Social Systems*, ch. 5, 6, 7, 8

Week 9

Niklas Luhmann, *Social Systems*, ch. 9, 10, 11, 1

Week 10

Jeffrey C. Alexander, *Action and its environments: toward a new synthesis*

Week 11

Anthony Giddens, *The Constitution of Society*

Week 12

Juergen Habermas, *The Theory of Communicative Action*, vol.1, ch. 1, 2, 3, 4.

Week 13

Juergen Habermas, *The Theory of Communicative Action*, vol.2, ch. 5, 6

(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, laboratory education, communication with students																						
TEACHING METHODS <i>The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail.</i> <i>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.</i> <i>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>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th><th>Semester workload</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lectures</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr> <td>Study of bibliography</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr> <td>Interactive teaching</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Essay writing</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <td>Course total</td><td>150</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Semester workload	Lectures	50	Study of bibliography	30	Interactive teaching	20	Essay writing	50											Course total	150
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STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION <i>Description of the evaluation procedure</i> <i>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</i> <i>Specifically-defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.</i>	4.000 word essays for Greek and Erasmus students																						

(5) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

<p><i>- Suggested bibliography:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giddens, Anthony, New Rules of Sociological Method (HM24 G447) - Gerhardt Uta, Talcot Parsons on National Socialism (HM22U6 P3786) - Colomy, Paul (ed), Functionalist Sociology (HM24 F773) - Savage, Stephen P, The Theories of Talcott Parsons (HM22U6 P378) - Holmwood John, Talcott Parsons and the idea of general theory (HM22U6 P36) <p><i>- Related academic journals:</i></p> <p>Frontiers in Sociology (Open Access-section Sociological theory)</p> <p>Social Imaginaries</p> <p>Thesis Eleven</p> <p>European Journal of Social Theory</p>
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