The National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”
Faculty of Social Sciences and Social Technologies
Department of Sociology

Course syllabus

“WORLD-SYSTEMS ANALYSIS”
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Autumn Semester 2012
3 credits ECTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course is devoted to scholarly study of various versions of world-systems analysis and its application to macrosocial and global processes and systems. It is desirable that the students have taken undergraduate courses in sociology, social structure and macrosociology. Courses in economic and political sociology would also be beneficial.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course is oriented towards:
- Illumination of major perspectives and aspects of inquiry of historical world systems and the modern world system.
- Study of non-capitalist world-systems and historical cycles of the capitalist world-system.
- Examination of political economy, inequalities and the geoculture of the modern world system.
- Analysis of regularities, tendencies and crises of the modern world systems, as well as exploratory and normative forecasts of its future.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

During the course students will:
• Master the core concepts and theories of world-systems analysis.
• Acquire the skills to analyze macrosocial and global processes and systems in a creative and critical way.
• Develop the habit to choose, ground and present personal academic and public position concerning the discussed scientific and social issues.
• Advance sociological academic writing skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Class discussions: 30% (talks at 5 seminars for up to 6 points each).
Class presentation: 10% (1 individual presentation for up to 10 points).
Academic paper: 40% (3 versions of the paper for 10, 15, and 15 points respectively).
Final test: 20% (1 test for up to 20 points).

In case of revealed plagiarism in a written assignment the students gets F grade for the course.
Bonus marks are possible: up to 6 points for talks on final seminar with discussions of academic papers. Nevertheless, the total grade for the course will not exceed 100%.

GRADING SCALE

A (91-100) – “Excellent”.
B (81-90) – “Very good”.
C (71-80) – “Good”.
D (66-70) – “Satisfactory”.
E (60-65) – “Sufficient”.
F (30-59) – “Unsatisfactory”.
F (0-29) – “Unacceptable”.
CLASSES SCHEDULE:

LECTURE 1: The theoretical grounds of world-systems analysis (week 1).
   1. The fundamental principles of social sciences.
   2. The emergence and development of world-systems analysis.
   4. World-systems research methodology.

SEMINAR 1. World-system structure (week 2).
   1. Social systems classification.
   2. The principal components and structures of world-systems.
   3. The determinant properties of world-systems.
   4. The regularities of world-systems change.

SEMINAR 2. Historical world-systems (week 3).
   1. World system history.
   2. World-systems: Europocentric, Asian, and American.
   3. The Genoese and Dutch cycles of the capitalist world-system.
   4. The British and American cycles of the capitalist world-system.

SEMINAR 3. The political economy of the modern world system (week 4).
   1. Economy: production, trade, and finance.
   2. Capital: value added, accumulation, and polarization.
   3. State and interstate system: diplomacy, hegemony, and war.
   4. Antisystemic social movements and revolutions.

SEMINAR 4. The inequalities and the geoculture of the modern world system (week 5).
   1. Divisions: class, race, nation, gender.
   2. World inequality.
   3. The sources of legitimacy: ideologies and sciences.
   4. The geoculture: cultures and identities.

SEMINAR 5. Regularities, tendencies and forecasts of changes in the modern world system (week 6).
   1. The regularities of changes of the modern world system.
   2. Trends in the modern world system.
   3. Crises in the modern world system.
   4. Future forecasts of the modern world system.

FINAL SEMINAR: Discussions of academic papers (week 7).
FINAL TEST (week 8).

DETAILED CLASSES SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

LECTURE 1: The theoretical grounds of world-systems analysis (week 1).
   1. The fundamental principles of social sciences.
   2. The emergence and development of world-systems analysis.
   4. World-systems research methodology.

Mandatory readings:


Further readings:


SEMINAR 1. World-system structure (week 2).

1. Social systems classification.
2. The principal components and structures of world-systems.
3. The determinant properties of world-systems.
4. The regularities of world-systems change.

Mandatory readings:


Further readings:


SEMINAR 2. **Historical world-systems (week 3).**

1. World system history.
2. World-systems: Europocentric, Asian, and American.
3. The Genoese and Dutch cycles of the capitalist world-system.
4. The British and American cycles of the capitalist world-system.

*Mandatory readings:*


*Further readings:*


Hegemonic Declines: Present and Past / Ed. by J. Friedman and C. Chase-Dunn. – Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, 2005. – Ch. 1: Escaping a Closed Universe: World-System Crisis, Regional Dynamics,


SEMINAR 3. The political economy of the modern world system (week 4).

1. Economy: production, trade, and finance.
2. Capital: value added, accumulation, and polarization.
3. State and interstate system: diplomacy, hegemony, and war.
4. Antisystemic social movements and revolutions.

**Mandatory readings:**


**Further readings:**

Wallerstein I. The End of the World as We Know It. Social Science for the Twenty-First Century. – Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999. – Ch. 4: States? Sovereignty? The Dilemmas of Capitalists in the Age of Transition. – P. 57-75.


SEMINAR 4. The inequalities and the geoculture of the modern world system (week 5).
1. Divisions: class, race, nation, gender.
2. World inequality.
3. The sources of legitimacy: ideologies and sciences.
4. The geoculture: cultures and identities.

Mandatory readings:


Further readings:

SEMINAR 5. Regularities, tendencies and forecasts of changes in the modern world system (week 6).

1. The regularities of changes of the modern world system.
2. Trends in the modern world system.
3. Crises in the modern world system.
4. Future forecasts of the modern world system.

**Mandatory readings:**


**Further readings:**


Wallerstein I. The End of the World as We Know It. Social Science for the Twenty-First Century. – Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999. – Ch. 3: The Rise of East Asia, or the World-System in the Twenty-First Century. – P. 34-48, Coda: The So-called Asian Crisis: Geopolitics in the Longee Duree. – P. 49-56, Ch. 15: The Heritage of Sociology, the Promise of Social Science. – P. 220-252.


FINAL SEMINAR: **Discussions of academic papers** (week 7).

FINAL TEST (week 8).