COURSE DETAIL

ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY: MODELLING SOCIAL INTERACTION

Country
Netherlands

Host Institution
Utrecht University

Program(s)
Utrecht University

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Sociology

UCEAP Course Number
101

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY: MODELLING SOCIAL INTERACTION

UCEAP Transcript Title
SOCIAL INTERACTION

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description
This is an intermediate undergraduate level course on theory formation and model building in Sociology. Thus the course focuses on the “Theory”, in the “Problems-Theory-Empirical Research-Policy implications” sequence that characterizes the various steps in analytical social science. The focus is on the common logic underlying different, sometimes competing but also often complementary sociological approaches. The core steps involved in theory formation and model building are discussed: the formulation of problems (societal problems as well as sociological problems), (re)construction of theories, derivation of testable hypotheses from general theories, and generating policy recommendations using sociological theories as well as results of empirical research. A focus on carefully designed arguments is a characteristic feature of the course: what assumptions do we need in order to derive certain implications? What implications follow from a certain set of assumptions? This includes making assumptions explicit which often remain implicit in theoretical reasoning. Another feature of the course is that we carefully reconstruct the links between propositions on the micro-level of individual behavior and propositions on the macro-level of social phenomena and processes. For this purpose, we introduce students to theoretical tools such as game theory and agent-based modeling. The course proceeds from examples of sociological analyses, each related to one of the main themes of sociology as a discipline: problems of order and cooperation (sometimes referred to as the problem of cohesion), problems of social inequality, and problems of social change.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
200300009

Host Institution Course Title
ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY: MODELLING SOCIAL INTERACTION

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus Social and Behavioral Sciences
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Sociology
Course Last Reviewed

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