

ISTINYE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

1st SEMESTER

Academic English I

Turkish Language I

Definition and characteristics of language. Languages of the world, The place of the Turkish language among world languages, Historical development of Turkish language. Turkish grammar and parts of Turkish grammar, expression types: written expression and verbal lecture, spelling rules and practice, punctuation marks.

Ataturk's Principles and History of Turkish Revolution I

The declaration of the Republic; The importance of the leader and the staff in the revolution; Constitutional solutions to the problems related to the Lausanne Conference; The participation of Turkey in pacts and in international organizations; Reactions to the new governmental structure; Trials in the multi-party system; The Home and foreign policy of the Republic of Turkey; Atatürk's foreign policy to inspire confidence in the future of Turkey; Kemalism the Principles of Atatürk.

Critique and Sociological Thinking

This course aims at developing the students 'sociological imagination'. Within the framework of two problematics: truth and critique, it introduces the conceptual thought schemas of the founding figures of sociology such as Marx, Weber, and Simmel and focuses on issues like ethnicity, race, gender inequality, poverty, mass communication, and urbanization. A scrutiny of these issues shows that inequalities are not natural, but historically and socially produced. To think sociologically enables us to develop a critical perspective on given hierarchies and power relations.

Cultural Encounters

Cultural Encounters: Antiquity, Middle Ages and Modernity addresses to several civilizations all over the World; dynamics of their birth, growth and decline; the ways they affect each other and diffusion of cultures by wars, trade, aesthetic production etc. from a comparative perspective.

2nd SEMESTER

Academic English II

Turkish Language II

Definition and characteristics of language. Languages of the world, The place of the Turkish language among world languages, Historical development of Turkish language. Turkish grammar and parts of Turkish grammar, expression types: written expression and verbal lecture, spelling rules and practice, punctuation marks.

Ataturk's Principles and History of Turkish Revolution II

The declaration of the Republic; The importance of the leader and the staff in the revolution; Constitutional solutions to the problems related to the Lausanne Conference; The participation of Turkey in pacts and in international organizations; Reactions to the new governmental structure; Trials in the multi-party system; The Home and foreign policy of the Republic of Turkey; Atatürk's foreign policy to inspire confidence in the future of Turkey; Kemalism the Principles of Atatürk.

Major Topics in Sociology

This course addresses to key concepts of sociological analysis for example culture, society, socialization, norms, roles, status, stratification, social change, deviance and social control; sociological methods and theoretical debates in the field of sociology.

Introduction to Philosophy

The purpose of this course is to introduce basic philosophical problematics, the history of philosophy shaped around the ideas and approaches of the great philosophers concerning those problematics and to improve the critical thinking abilities of the students. In this wise, the course will present approaches of different philosophers from the Ancient Greek Philosophy to Modern Philosophy in ethics, epistemology, philosophy of nature and politics.

Introduction to Economics

Thinking like an economist, Supply and Demand, Market Equilibrium, Quotas and Price Ceilings, Shifting and Tilting Supply and Demand Curves, Market Power, Regulating Monopoly and Strategic Interactions, Externalities and Property Rights, Information Economics and Adverse Selection, Benefit-Cost Analysis, Income Distribution and Labour Markets, Public goods and political economy, Measuring

the macroeconomy, Economic growth in long run, Introduction to finance and business cycles, Income and spending, monetary policy, AS-AD analysis, Macroeconomic policy, International economy.

3rd SEMESTER

Research Methods

This course aims to impart an empirical familiarity with the range of methods available and to sociological researchers. Topics covered include hypothesis formulation and theory construction, the measurement of sociological variables, data collection techniques- experimental, survey, and observational techniques. We will examine broadly defined methodological approaches to doing sociology such as survey research, ethnography, and interviews, historical/comparative studies.

Classical Social Theory

This course will study the classical founders of sociology, focusing on the writings of Comte, Durkheim, Weber, Marx, and Simmel. Attention will be given to how these theories have given rise to the major theoretical perspectives in sociology, particularly functionalism, conflict theory and symbolic interactionism.

Academic Writing

Manifest of Istinye I

This course is led by Student Center. Students are required to participate social activities, social responsibility projects, part-time jobs.

4th SEMESTER

Contemporary Social Theory

This course aims to expose the students to major approaches, themes, thinkers and debates on sociology. The course is organized to discuss historical narrative of issues and debates, as an introduction to a set of important books and prominent thinkers, around varying approaches to theory and theory construction (from metatheory to cumulative theoretical research programs), or around key theoretical dilemmas (action and structure, mechanisms bridging micro and macro and meso level

analysis, the dilemma of consensus and conflict, the importance of ideology and economy in the making of the World history, and comparative history).

Sociology of Urban Life

This course aims to introduce the students to issues such as the emergence of cities in history, the change of cities in progress, the emergence of urban sociology, its development, the conceptual and theoretical framework of this sub-discipline, progress of urban sociology studies in Turkey and its main topics will be discussed by putting out a comparative perspective, with reference to urban problems.

Social and Cultural Anthropology

This course addresses to the key concepts, methods, and theoretical debates of social and cultural anthropology; handles main subjects like culture, language, communication, gender, subsistence strategies, marriage and family, power and violence, religious practices, different processes of cultural change.

Manifest of Istinye II

This course is led by Student Center. Students are required to participate social activities, social responsibility projects, part-time jobs.

5th SEMESTER

Social Change

Although the societies may seem like unchanging absolute entities, they are indeed in a perpetual process of change. The purpose of this course is to present different approaches in philosophy and sociology concerning the mechanisms leading the change that the societies experiment throughout the history.

Methodology

The method is one of the most important elements of the scientific approach as a way of producing systematic information. The scientific value of a work depends on the use of a method and its consistency with observation and experimentation that form the basis of the scientific method. For this reason, the method that has such a fundamental meaning for science needs to be emphasized. The understanding of how the method is developed is important for understanding how the content and boundaries of scientific knowledge evolve. This course aims to present different philosophical and sociological approaches to the production of methods and knowledge.

Political Sociology

Political Sociology is a rich subfield of sociology that has historically examined the elites, social class, the state, political parties and processes, the media, and social movements and related organizations. The three major social institutions or areas that shape the social and political life of the modern era are the marketplace (business community/ economic activities), the state (government, laws, policies, ideologies), and civil society (social movements and non-profit/civic or citizen-based organizations). Key constructs of political sociology are “power”, “domination”, “legitimacy”, “the state”, “elites and their networks”, “social class and inequality”, and “protest, collective action, and social movements.” This course aims students to gain a good understanding of the concepts, basic theories, arguments and literature related to Political Sociology.

Manifest of Istinye III

This course is led by Student Center. Students are required to participate social activities, social responsibility projects, part-time jobs.

6th SEMESTER

Sociology of Inequalities: Gender, Ethnicity, Class

This course introduces students to the research on social stratification and inequality, one of the central subfields in sociology. Issues related to gender, ethnicity, race, class, as well as many other sociological domains, are frequently discussed under this concept. This course will focus on the fundamental processes, such as class reproduction, social mobility, and discrimination that underlie the observed stratification in modern society.

Economic Sociology

In this course, Fordist and post-Fordist periods, Keynesian politics and neoliberalism will be discussed in terms of the period of economic transformation of the modern world. By considering production, the means of production and consumption-oriented studies conducted with different perspectives, Modern Turkey's economic policies will be discussed in parallel with the transformation of the world economic history.

Manifest of Istinye IV

This course is led by Student Center. Students are required to participate social activities, social responsibility projects, part-time jobs.

7th SEMESTER

Field Research I

This course is the first of a two-part sequence that introduces students to the doing of research (primarily participant observation and in-depth interviewing) through a variety of activities. This semester we focus on being “in the field,” that is, on the collection of data. The course will include two types of study; collecting data and conducting your own original research project. We will talk with each other about our findings, problems, issues, topics, and all other research dilemmas in the large group discussions in class, in small group discussions in and out of class, and through written feedback from me and from each other.

Seminar I

This is a senior course that will be on a selected topic by the students and the instructor. Students will prepare a paper on the selected subject at the end of the course.

8th SEMESTER

Field Research II

This course is designed as the second part of the Field Research I course. In this course, students will conduct another original project or enlarge the previous project which will include a fieldwork. Students will choose a topic and we will discuss which methods are suitable; whether quantitative such as survey and correspondence analysis or qualitative studies such as in-depth interview, oral history, discourse analysis, participant observation, and ethnography. There will also be discussions on academic work ethic.

Seminar II

This is the second of seminar courses that will be organized on a selected topic by the students and the instructor. Students will prepare a paper on the selected subject at the end of the course.

DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIVES

Data Analysis

The course introduces basic concepts in statistics, as well as data exploration methods, with a specific focus on their use in sociology. Topics covered include probability distributions, data transformations,

confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, frequency analysis, correlation, and regression. SPSS program will be used for this course.

Qualitative Method

This course has a focus on the methods of text analysis. Methods such as content analysis, document analysis, grounded theory, ethnographic methods, narrative semiotics, critical discourse analysis, functional pragmatics, distinction theory text analysis, and objective hermeneutics will be covered. To empower the methodological discussions on these methods, case studies will be used.

Visual Culture

This course aims to develop students' analytic skills related to the critical assessment of visual data. Some of the themes covered in the course would be the political use of mass media from film to television and internet, social role of images and visibility, reproduction of gender and racialization, power relations of seeing, being visible and invisible. We will examine how images circulate through digital media, viral networks, and the cross-fertilization of images between various social arenas, such as art, advertising, popular culture, comic books, news, science, entertainment media, video games, theme parks, architecture, and design.

Social Memory

This course explores the growing field of memory studies, the roots of our interest in memory and the role it plays in contemporary society. The course starts by defining the field of research at the intersection of history, anthropology, sociology, and psychology and examines the emergence of 'memory' as an object of study within these disciplines, focusing on the interplay between individual and collective memory. In the second part, it presents a series of case studies that expose the processes through which individual memories are shaped by larger collectivities, the cultural construction of trauma and the ways in which symbols, practices, spaces, and objects become means to articulate and legitimate personal biographies, collective identities and memory projects.

Modernity and Postmodernity

The basic institutions of modernity (capitalism, industrialism, nation-state, and identity) are currently undergoing radical change. Some theorists have even argued that modernity has reached its end. To assess those claims, the course will provide a thorough and wide-ranging introduction to the theories of modernity and post-modernity. First, we will study the classic theories of modernization and, in the second part, we will analyze in more detail the philosophical, sociological and cultural discussions about post-modernism and post-modernity that emerged in the eighties.

Body and Power

Body and health will be discussed as a social category, related to the issues of social inequality, ethics, media, consumption, and commodification, in addition to the topic of health activism. The course will cover the effects of the domains of culture and power on the categories of body and health. The course will cover the topics of gender, subjectivity, being healthy and normal as social categories, changing ideal body images in relation to consumption and privacy. Michel Foucault's discussions will be at the center of the course.

20th Century Revolutions: French, Russian, Cuban

In this course, students will gain a better understanding of the modern world by studying some of the most important political revolutions that took place in the 20th century. You will seek to understand the causes of each revolution, analyze the ideologies that inspired the revolutionaries, examine revolutionary uses of violence, and consider how historical revolutions still shape contemporary politics. Subsequent units examine the French Revolution of 1789; the Russian and Cuban Revolutions, which sought to create Marxist states. By the end of the course, you will be able to identify commonalities and differences among these revolutions and understand how—individually and collectively—they transformed the modern world.

Sociology of Art

Sociological consideration of the arts has a long history. It extends back to the works of such classical writers as Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Georg Simmel and weaves its way to contemporary work by such scholars as Paul DiMaggio, Wendy Griswold, and Tia DeNora. Then, we will examine the theoretical traditions associated with, among others, Pierre Bourdieu and Theodor Adorno, and we will explore such topics as artistic careers, cultural capital, and the globalization of the arts, the dichotomy of representation and reality, ways of seeing, commodification, high culture and popular culture dichotomy, and social class.

Sociology of Emotions

Although most of us think that feelings are deeply personal and private experiences—comprised of physiological and psychological elements—sociologists argue that they are heavily influenced by social factors. In this course, we'll explore the social side of emotion—including how they are socially learned, shaped, regulated, controlled, and distributed in the population as well as the consequences of emotion culture, emotion norms, emotion management, emotional labor, and emotional deviance for individuals, social groups, and society. Also, the concepts of affect, hatred, and marginalization, emotions in social movements, conformity and shame will be discussed.

Sociology of Everyday Life

The course will survey the main theorists and schools of everyday life thinking in twentieth-century social and cultural thought that has been largely ignored or marginalized by mainstream approaches within the human sciences. This has sought not merely to describe lived experience, but to transform it -to elevate the everyday knowledge to the status of a critical knowledge. Central figures here are Marx, Freud, Benjamin, Lefebvre, Debord, Maffesoli, de Certeau, Goffman, and Smith. Then, the topics including post-modernity, national cultures, ethnography, material culture, consumption and popular culture will be discussed.

History of Modern Turkey

In this historical sociology course, we will discuss the making of modern Turkey as a case. Throughout the course, concepts such as modernity, nation building, ethnicity, language, and religion will come to the forefront. The dichotomy between the continuity and historical break with the Ottoman modernization and Turkish Republican experiences will be discussed.

Organizational Sociology

This course covers basic concepts and topics related to organizations, their historical roots and scholarly investigations ever since the beginning of the twentieth century, communication styles and improvements, studies on group dynamics, significance of on-the-job training, refined management techniques and leadership qualifications, handling stress and conflict and resistance to change, hindering counter-productive attitudes and actions.

Philosophical Roots of Economics

Economics is accepted as a science in the modern societies. However, it is not well known how and according to which principles it emerged in the Enlightenment. The purpose of this course is to present the philosophical approaches which served as the basis to the economics before it even became a scientific discipline.

Sociology of Culture

With the “cultural turn” in the social sciences, the sociology of culture has re-emerged to produce some of the most exciting research in sociology. The topics related to culture; such as art, sport, food, religion, music, social media and cultural memory, will be examined sociologically and it will be discussed how culture can reproduce, organize, and challenge particular social values and structures. Dynamics of cultural construction, contention, and diffusion are key terms in the field. The course will include the discussion of both material and non-material cultures.

Critical Economics

Although the Neoclassical approach is considered today as the only scientific discipline which has a voice in the economics, this approach has difficulties to explain the mechanisms during the crises. At this point, different approaches can put forth alternative explanations for the mechanisms conducting the economics. This course aims to present those alternative approaches in order to help the student consider the relationship between the economics and the society from different points of view.

Literature and Sociology

This course is designed to utilize some exciting literary works to study important sociological concepts, including gender roles, production of knowledge, cultural production, modernity, class and social stratification. First, we will explore this fairly experimental and historically evolving field of sociology through literature. Second, we will read a selection of fiction to help us ponder the human condition. In the process, we will examine some useful literary themes, such as the problematic hero's/heroine's search for authentic values in a degraded society.

Sociology of Migration

The course will first outline the factors shaping migration patterns and compare immigration policies across time and space. Next, we will explore debates around assimilation and other models of immigrant incorporation, and consider how gender, race, and ethnicity affect the reception and integration of migrants. Then, we will examine the consequences of immigration and transnationalism on nation-states and diasporic communities. Finally, we will study the case of modern Turkey and its policies about migration throughout the Republic's history.

Industrial Societies

This course deals with the relationship between technology and social change with an emphasis on the rapid transformations started since the Industrial Revolution. The industry here refers to the place where the goods and services are produced for the consumption in an economy. It is the place where every single person comes and interacts with each other for the process of production and consumption. The industry is not only economic but also a social field that gives rise to major social transformations and modernization process. In this course, the emergence of advanced industrialized societies and their modernization experience will be discussed in the framework of economic, technological and social transformation.

Political and Economic Anthropology

This course is an introduction to two main issues of anthropology: economy and politics. In this course, we will explore how anthropological explanations of why and how people engage in different kinds of economic activities. The course covers case studies such as the distinction between gifts and commodities, the relationship between people and objects of exchange, such as money, and most crucially the issue of the moral basis of markets and other forms of economic activity, as well as case studies related to the functioning and evolution of state, the effects of colonialism, and globalisation on social practices.

Sociology of Crime and Social Deviance

This is an analysis of the social aspects of deviant behavior and crime, and the various theories employed to understand it. It focuses on criminal as well as non-criminal deviance such as mental disorders, drug use and prostitution, homosexuality, obesity, and fandom.

Consumer Societies

Consumption has been one of the main spheres that foster modernity. It has a major role in the production of identity and citizenship and social stratification. In this course, we will explore how consumer societies develop, who are the main social actors in the process of producing a “consumer culture”, and what are the social consequences related to inequality, status, capital, identities, and practices.

Gender Studies

Gender is one of the most fundamental factors determining one's place in any society. The course will begin with an examination of key theoretical approaches to the study of gender. Special attention will be paid to how gender is socially constructed as well as how we engage in the re-creation and construction of gender in our everyday lives. It will cover issues such as gender inequalities, multiple femininities, and masculinities, gender distinctions in social institutions of family and work, feminism as a social movement.

Historical Sociology

History is an essential discipline to sociology and, historical sociology is one of the oldest subfields in sociology that originated from the founding fathers of sociology discipline. Many macro sociology issues such as power and its forms, modern state formation, the rise of capitalism, civilizations, revolutions with their causes and consequences, nationalism, wars, movements, ideologies constitute the main themes of historical sociology. Moreover, methodological issues such as causal mechanisms, time or path dependence, case selection and means of making comparisons will be discussed.

Sociology in Turkey

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the birth and development of the discipline of sociology in Turkey. Starting with the intellectual roots in the Ottoman era to the present, we will examine the major representatives, schools, and works. In doing so, handling the sociology in Turkey as compared to the development of sociology in the world is another of the main objectives of this course.

Readings in Turkish Modernization 1

This course is the first of two Turkish modernization courses. The debates and controversies over modernization, westernization, nationalism, and secularism as the main topics of the modern Turkish Republic will be discussed by using the works of prominent intellectuals of the history of Turkish modernization.

Readings in Turkish Modernization 2

This course is the second of the Turkish modernization courses. Various topics including the use of public spaces and urban planning, differentiation of gender roles, identity, minorities and political economy will be discussed in relation to their historical backgrounds. Main texts on these topics in the Turkish modernization literature will be critically examined.

Urban Segregation

The aim of this course is to lay out the conceptual and theoretical framework of the phenomenon of urban deconstruction or isolation, by focusing on its roots, historical examples, present-day reflections as well as the impacts and consequences of this differentiation. Discussions on how to remove the distinction between poverty and discrimination, as affiliated social problems that lead to other problems, will also be covered in this course.

Race and Ethnicity

In this course, students will be introduced to theories and empirical researches regarding race and ethnicity. The course will cover the topics of stratification and inequality, theories of race, racism, and ethnicity, theories of social class, gender, culture, and status. The aim of this course is raising the awareness of students about the uncritical opinions, generalizations, and reductionisms with a sociological perspective.

Social Classes and Conflict

Karl Marx defends that the distribution of the property of production instruments divides the society into two major classes and the basis of the social conflict is founded on this very division. Following this point of view, it is possible to suggest that different social groups in a society acquire distinct roles according to economic, political, social and cultural inequalities and those groups experience social conflicts with other groups due to their capital accumulation. This course aims to introduce different thinkers' approaches concerning the conflicts raised from that stratification due to inequalities.

Sociology of Religion

Religion is one of the most powerful forces of social cohesion, order, meaning, disruption, and change in human societies, both historically and today in the modern world. Sociology provides a particular disciplinary perspective and analytical tools and theories for describing, understanding, and explaining the nature and influence of religion. In this course, we will focus on the theories of secularization, starting from the founding fathers of sociology to the perspectives of main contemporary sociologists of religion.

Power and Geography

This course covers theoretical discussions about the relationship between politics and geography; territory and territoriality; borders and scale; space, power and inequality; states and statecraft; and the politics of nations, regions, and localities. In particular, we will focus on how the categories of "west" and "east" correspond to geographical as well as political domains, in relation to the discussions in the sociology of knowledge around Orientalism and Occidentalism.

Social Movements and Revolutions

Western societies perpetually experienced fundamental social changes by way of social movements and revolutions during the Renaissance, Reformation and Enlightenment periods. The West gained its current identity as a result of those events like the English Civil War, French Revolution and then, the October Revolution. The purpose of this course is to present the basic historical knowledge concerning the paramount social movements and revolutions which had a significant role in the construction of the modern western societies.

UNIVERSITY ELECTIVES

Social Psychology

This is an introductory level course to social psychology which comprises topics such as history of social psychology, social cognition, self, attitudes, groups, prejudice, prosocial behaviour and culture.

Introduction to Probability

Introduction to Statistics

Introduction to Psychology I

Introduction to psychology including basic psychological processes, such as perception, learning, motivation, theories of development, intelligence, personality, social relations and psychopathology. Emphasis on research methods and experimental design in psychology.

Modern World History

In this course, studies will be conducted to understand the modern World from the Enlightenment to the present. In this context, we will focus on the emergence of modern notions of production, consumption, and trade from a global perspective. Prominent themes include the rise and fall of empires, colonization and decolonization, technology and the development of a global economy, nationalism and revolutionary movements, nation-states, modern imperialism and its influence on global societies, economies, and political systems.

New Media

This course aims to examine examples of the ways in which anti-system movements that are active in today's world use new media, based on the analysis of the theoretical frameworks related to social movements and new media.