



CSS
Center for Social Sciences

სოციალურ მეცნიერებათა ცენტრი

ივანე ჯავახიშვილის სახელობის
თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი

დანართი 1

კვლევის მეთოდების ტრენინგის მოდული სასწავლო კურსი: "სოციალურ მეცნიერებათა ფილოსოფია" (5 ECTS, 30 საკონტაქტო საათი)

ლექტორი: თამარ ცხადაძე, თსუ-ს ასოცირებული პროფესორი, "გენდერის კვლევის" საერთაშორისო სამაგისტრო პროგრამის აკადემიური ხელმძღვანელი;

კურსის მიზნები: კურსის მიზანია სტუდენტებს გააცნოს სოციალურ მეცნიერებათა ფილოსოფიის ცენტრალური ცნებები და ტენდენციები, სოციალურ მეცნიერებებთან დაკავშირებული ონთოლოგიური, ეპისტომოლოგიური და მეთოდოლოგიური საკითხები; აგრეთვე აუხსნას სტუდენტებს სოციალურ მეცნიერებებში მეცნიერეული ახსნის ალტერნატიული მოდელები და მათი გამოყენების გზები. გააცნოს დებატებს ახსნასა - გაგების წინააღმდეგ, მიზეზ-შედეგობრიობა და ადგილის ინტერნაციონალურობა ამასთან მიმართებაში, სტრუქტურა - სუბიექტის საპირისპიროდ ობიექტურობა პირადი ჩართულობის საპირისპიროდ და სხვ.

სწავლის შედეგები: კურსის გავლის შედეგად სტუდენტს ექნება მეცნიერების ფილოსოფიის ძირითადი ცნებების საფუძვლიანი ცოდნა, შეისწავლოს სოციალურ მეცნიერებათა ფილოსოფიის დომინანტურ ტენდენციებსა და წინააღმდეგობებს, შეიძინოს კრიტიკული კითხვისა და ფილოსოფიური ცნებებისა გაგების უნარ-ჩვევებს, აგრეთვე სხვადასხვა პრობლემისა და თვალთახედვის ანალიზისათვის საჭირო არგუმენტაციულ სტრატეგიებს.

კურსის სილაბუსი:

Course Title: Philosophy of Social Science

Course Code:

Course Status: TSU Faculty of Social and Political Studies, Center for Social Sciences.
Required course for the Interdisciplinary English-language master's program
Transformation in the South Caucasus

Duration: One Semester (Intensive course - 8 weeks)

Starting from June 16 till July 30, 2010

Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12.00-14.00 pm (2 contact hours per class)

ECTS: ECTS – 5; Contact hours – 30; Hours for independent work - 95

Lecturer: Tamar Tskhadadze, tamunats@gmail.com

Course Objectives: The course is intended to introduce students to central concepts and trends of the philosophy of the social science; to ontological, epistemological and methodological issues connected with social sciences; to acquaint students with alternative models of scientific explanation and their application in social sciences, the debates over explanation vs. understanding, causality and the place of intentionality in it, structure vs. subject, objectivity vs. personal engagement, etc.

Prerequisites: The course has no prerequisites.

- Course Format:** The course will heavily rely on classroom discussions and students' presentations, with the minimal number of monologue lectures – one-hour introductory lecture for each broad topic.
- Course Content:** **Session 1. Introduction to the Course (16.06)**
 Introduction of the course syllabus; discussion of some technical matters.
 General overview of various paradigms and controversies in the philosophy of social science. Key logical and philosophical concepts. Themes from epistemology and philosophy of natural science.
I. Empiricism and Post-empiricism. Explanation and Prediction. Explanation in the Social Sciences (sessions 2-4) (18.06)
Session 2. Empiricism and Positivism; observational/theoretical dichotomy; hypothetic-deductive model of scientific explanation. Causal explanation; concepts of cause and effect
Required reading
 - Suppe, Frederick, "The Positivist Model of Scientific Theories" // *Scientific Enquiries. Readings in the Philosophy of Science*, ed. by Robert Klee (NY and Oxford, Oxford University Press), pp. 16-24
 - Hempel, Carl Gustav and Paul Oppenheim, "The Deductive-Nomological Model of Scientific Explanation" // *Scientific Enquiries. Readings in the Philosophy of Science*, ed. by Robert Klee (NY and Oxford, Oxford University Press), pp. 163-180*Recommended reading*
 - Rosenberg, Alexander, "The Rise of Logical Positivism" // *Scientific Enquiries. Readings in the Philosophy of Science*, ed. by Robert Klee (NY and Oxford, Oxford University Press), pp. 10-15**Session 3. Status of the hypothetic-deductive model in the social science (21.06)**
Required reading
 - Hempel, Carl G., "The Function of General Laws in History" // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 43-54*Recommended reading*
 - Hempel, Carl Gustav, "Problems of Concept and Theory Formation in the Social Sciences", // *Science, Language and Human Rights* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1952), pp. 65-86
 - Hayek, F. A., "The Theory of Complex Phenomena" // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 55-70
 - Nagel, Ernest, "Statistical Generalizations and Their Explanations" // Ernest Nagel, *The Structure of Science: Problems in The Logic of Scientific Explanation* (Hackett Publishing Company, 1979), pp. 503-502.**Session 4. the post-positivist criticism of the positivist model of science and the observational/theoretical dichotomy; observation as theory-laden (23.06)**
Required reading
 - Quine, W. V., "Two Dogmas of Empiricism", #5, 6 // Quine, *From a Logical Point of View* (Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England Harvard University Press, 1980 (1952)), pp. 37-46
 - Popper, Karl R., "1. Science: Conjectures and Refutations (i, ii)" // Karl Popper, *Conjectures and Refutations* (London: Routledge, 1965, 1989), pp. 33-39
 - Kuhn, Thomas S., "Introduction: A Role for History" // Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1962, 1996), pp. 1-9*Recommended reading*
 - "Posits and Reality" // W.V. Quine, *The Ways of Paradox and Other Essays* (Cambridge-London, Harvard University Press, 1966), pp. 246-254

- Lakatos, Imre, “Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes” // *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge* Edited by Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970), pp. 173-177
- Feyerabend, Paul, *Against Method, Outline of an Anarchist Theory of Knowledge* (Verso, 1975, 1993), pp. 23-25, 165-169

Background/Remediation reading for topic I (sessions 2-4):

- Little, Daniel, “2. Causal Analyses” // Daniel Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview Press, Boulder, Co., 1991), pp. 13-38
- Trigg, Roger, “1. The Nature of Science” // Roger Trigg, *Understanding Social Science. A Philosophical Introduction to the Social Science* (Blackwell Publishers, 1985, 2001), pp. 1-22

II. Basic Assumptions of Rational Choice Explanations. Conceptions of Rationality (sessions 5-6)

Session 5. Basic concepts and assumptions of Rational-choice explanations; decision rules, rationality of collective actions; reasons as causes. (25.06)

Required reading

- Elster, John, “The Nature and Scope of Rational-Choice Explanation” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 311-322

Recommended reading

- Davidson, Donald, “Actions, Reasons, and Causes” // Donald Davidson, *Essays on Actions and Events* (Clarendon Press, 1980, 2001), pp. 3-20

Session 6. Necessity of the assumption of rationality and the problem of irrationality.

Required reading (28.06)

- Lukes, Steven, “Some Problems about Rationality” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 285-298

Recommended reading

- Henderson, David K., “The Principle of Charity and the Problem of Irrationality (Translation and the Problem of Irrationality)” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 323-341
- Dagfinn Føllesdal, “The Status of Rationality Assumptions in Interpretation and in the Explanation of Action” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 299-310

Background/Remediation reading for topic II (sessions 5-6):

- Little, Daniel, “3. Rational Choice Theory” // Daniel Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview Press, Boulder, Co., 1991), pp. 39-58
- Scott, John, “Rational Choice Theory” // *Understanding Contemporary Society. Theories of the Present*, ed. by Gary Browning, Abigail Halcli, Frank Webster (SAGE Publications, 2000), pp. 126-138.

III. Understanding and Interpretation (session 7) (30.06)

Session 7. Understanding versus explanation; theories of interpretation; the idea of hermeneutical method. Interpretation and agency; primacy of culture.

Required reading

- Taylor, Charles, “Interpretation and the Sciences of Man” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 181-212

Recommended reading

- Geertz, Clifford, “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 213-232
- Gadamer, Hans-Georg, *Truth and Method* (Sheed and Ward, 1975), pp. 258-274
- Nagel, Ernest, “Methodological Individualism and Interpretive Social Science” // Ernest Nagel, *The Structure of Science: Problems in The Logic of Scientific Explanation* (Hackett Publishing Company, 1979), pp. 535-546.

Background/Remediation reading for topic III (session 7):

- Little, Daniel, “4. Interpretation Theory” // Daniel Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview Press, 1991), pp. 68-87
- Trigg, Roger, “4. Understanding Other Societies” // Roger Trigg, *Understanding Social Science. A Philosophical Introduction to the Social Science* (Blackwell Publishers, 1985, 2001), pp. 64-88

IV. Functional and Structural Explanations. Post-structuralism (sessions 8-11)

Session 8. Function and cause; functional explanation; functionalism in the social science.

Required reading

- Hempel, Carl G., “The Logic of Functional Analysis” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 346-375
- Elster, Jon, “Functional Explanation: In Social Science” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 403-414

Recommended reading

- Dore, R. P., “Function and Cause” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 377-390
- Cohen, G. A., “Functional Explanation: In Marxism” // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 391-402
- Nagel, Ernest, “Functionalism in Social Science” // Ernest Nagel, *The Structure of Science: Problems in The Logic of Scientific Explanation* (Hackett Publishing Company, 1979), pp. 520-535.

Session 9. Structuralism; structure and subjectivity.

Required reading

- Levi-Strauss, Claude, “Structural Analysis in Linguistics and Anthropology” // Claude Levi-Strauss, *Structural Anthropology* (Basic Books, 1963, 1974), pp. 31-55

Recommended reading

- Giddens, Antony, “2. Agency, Structure” // Antony Giddens, *Central Problems in Social Theory. Action, Structure and Contradiction in Social Analysis* (University of California Press, 1979), pp. 49-95

Sessions 10-11. Post-structuralism

Required reading

- Foucault, Michel, Preface for *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* (London: Tavistock Publications Ltd, 1970. Reprinted by Routledge in 1989 and 2002), pp. xvi-xxvi
- Michel Foucault, “On Power” // *Politics, Philosophy, Culture: Interviews and Other Writings, 1977-1984* (Ed. Lawrence Kritzman, Routledge, 1990), pp. 96-109
- Foucault, Michel, “Method” (chap 2 of “The Deployment of Sexuality”) // *The History of Sexuality Vol. 1: The Will to Knowledge* (Vintage Books, 1990), pp. 82-102
- Derrida, Jacques, “Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourses of the Human Sciences” // Jacques Derrida, *Writing and Difference* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978), pp. 278-294.

Recommended reading

- Giddens, Anthony, "Structuralism, Post-Structuralism and the Production of Culture" // *Social Theory Today*, ed. by Anthony Giddens and Jonathan Turner (Stanford University Press, 1987), pp. 195-223
- Michel Foucault, "Power and Sex" // *Politics, Philosophy, Culture: Interviews and Other Writings, 1977-1984* (Ed. Lawrence Kritzman, Routledge, 1990), pp. 110-124

Background/Remediation reading for topic IV (sessions 8-11):

- Little, Daniel, "5. Functional and Structural Explanation. Functionalism" // Daniel Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview Press, 1991), pp. 91-112

V. Controversies about Individualism and Reductionism (session 12)

Session 12. Individual actions and social facts; methodological individualism and the idea of supervenience.

Required reading

- Durkheim, Emile, "Social Facts" // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 433-440
- Lukes, Steven, "Methodological Individualism Reconsidered" // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 451-458

Recommended reading

- Little, Daniel, "9. Methodological Individualism" // Daniel Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview Press, 1991), pp. 183-201
- Miller, Richard W., "Methodological Individualism and Social Explanation" // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 459-478
- Trigg, Roger, "3. Individuals and Society" // Roger Trigg, *Understanding Social Science. A Philosophical Introduction to the Social Science* (Blackwell Publishers, 1985, 2001), pp. 44-63

VI. Objectivity of Science: Value-Neutrality in Question (sessions 13-14)

Session 14. The idea of objectivity; the objectivity of natural versus social sciences.

Required reading

- Nagel, Ernest, "Methodological Problems of the Social Science," II, III, IV // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 459-502

Recommended reading

- Weber, Max, "'Objectivity' in Social Science and Social Policy" // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 535-546
- Taylor, Charles, "Neutrality in Political Science" // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 547-570

Session 13. Feminist critique of scientific objectivity.

Required reading

- Alcoff, Linda, "The Problem of Speaking for Others" // *Cultural Critique*, No 20, 1991-92, pp. 5-32

Recommended reading

- Donna Haraway, "Situated Knowledge: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective" // *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*, ed. by Carole R. McCann and Seung-Kyung Kim (Routledge, 2003), pp. 391-403
- Helen Longino, "Can There Be a Feminist Science?" // *Feminist Theory*, A

philosophical Anthology, ed. by Ann E. Cudd and Robin O. Andreasen (Blackwell Publishing, 2004), pp. 210-217

- Smith, Dorothy, "Women's Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology" // *Sociological Inquiry* 44, 1974, pp. 7-13. Also in Harding (ed.), *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader: Intellectual and Political Controversies* (Routledge, 2003), pp. 21-33
- Nancy Hartsock, "The Feminist Standpoint: Developing the Ground for a Specifically Feminist Historical Materialism" // *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*, ed. by Carole R. McCann and Seung-Kyung Kim (Routledge, 2003), pp. 292-307

Background/Remediation reading for topic VI (sessions 13-14):

- Little, Daniel, "10. Relativism" // Daniel Little, *Varieties of Social Explanation* (Westview Press, 1991), pp. pp. 91-113, 202-221
- Trigg, Roger, "2. Objectivity and the Sociology of Knowledge", "6. Facts and Values" // Roger Trigg, *Understanding Social Science. A Philosophical Introduction to the Social Science* (Blackwell Publishers, 1985, 2001), pp. 23-43, 112-131

Session 15. Concluding Discussion.

- Fay, Brian and Moon, J. Donald, "What Would an Adequate Philosophy of Science Look Like?" // *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, ed. by Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre (The MIT Press, 1994), pp. 21-35

Assessment:

The assessment will be based on the fulfilments of the following course requirements:

- 1. Participation in classroom discussions:** to fulfil this requirement, the student shall be actively engaged in the classroom discussion and demonstrate having read all reading assignments required for the class (10%)
 - 2. Presentations on assigned readings:** each student will have 2 occasions to present assigned readings. One presentation shall last about 10 minutes. Students are expected to summarize essential aspects of the problem addressed, solutions to it proposed, and arguments adduced in the text. Students are encouraged, though not required to use presentation tools like PowerPoint, flipchart, etc. (one presentation 10%, total 20%)
 - 3. Midterm Examination:** by the end of the session 8, students will be given several (up to 5) questions on the covered material written answers to which to be turned in within one week (20%)
 - 4. Final examination part 1 (take home):** a short (up to 1500 words) on a topic previously agreed with the instructor (30%)
 - 5. Final examination part 2 (in class):** on the final exam day, students shall answer in writing several (up to 5) questions set by the instructor (20%)
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| Participation in discussions: | 10% |
| Presentation on assigned readings (2x10%): | 20% |
| Midterm examination (take home): | 20% |
| Final examination part 1 (take home): | 30% |
| Final examination part 2 (in class): | 20% |

Required

Readings:

Additional

Resources:

Learning

Outcomes:

There is no standard textbook for this course. All required readings are listed above in the relevant sections.

All recommended and background readings are listed above in the relevant sections.

In case of successful completion of the course, the student shall have command of key concepts of the philosophy of science, be acquainted with dominant trends and controversies in the philosophy of the social science, have acquired skills of critical reading and understanding philosophical arguments and of using philosophical concepts and argumentative strategies for analyzing various problems and standpoints.

მოკლე ინფორმაცია კვლევის მეთოდების მოდულის შესახებ:

სოციალურ მეცნიერებათა ცენტრის მიერ ადმინისტრირებული კვლევის მეთოდების მოდული შედგება ორი ნაწილისგან და მოიცავს: ა) მოსამზადებელ კურსებს და ბ) ძირითად კურსებს რომლებიც ჩატარდება ცენტრის ბაზაზე, თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტში.

მოსამზადებელი კურსები ტარდება ა.წ. 16 ივნისიდან 6 აგვისტომდე სოციალურ მეცნიერებათა ცენტრში საერთაშორისო სადოქტორო პროგრამების "საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობების" და "გენდერის კვლევის" დარეგისტრირებული აპლიკანტებისათვის. კვლევის მეთოდების კურსები ასევე შეუძლიათ აიღონ **თსუ-ს სოციალურ და პოლიტიკურ მეცნიერებათა ფაკულტეტის სხვა სადოქტორო პროგრამების სტუდენტებმა, აგრეთვე თსუ-ს სხვა ფაკულტეტების დოქტორანტებმა** საჭიროების შემთხვევაში. რეგისტრაცია კურსებზე უნდა მოხდეს 14 ივნისამდე. რეგისტრაციისთვის თსუ-ს დოქტორანტებმა ელ ფოსტით უნდა გამოაგზავნონ შევსებული [სარეგისტრაციო ფორმა](#) შემდეგ მისამართზე mmikaberidze@ucss.ge. აგრეთვე უნდა წარმოადგინონ ამობეჭდილი და ხელმოწერილი ასლი.

კვლევის მეთოდების ზაფხულის მოდული მოიცავს შემდეგ კურსებს:

- 1) **სოციალურ მეცნიერებათა ფილოსოფია (5 ECTS, 30 საკონტაქტო საათი)**
- 2) **გამოყენებითი სტატისტიკის შესავალი (5 ECTS, 30 საკონტაქტო საათი)**
- 3) **სოციალური კვლევის მეთოდები (რაოდენობრივი, თვისებრივი) (5 ECTS, 30 საკონტაქტო საათი)**