University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	The sociology of secrecy, PG_00176687		
Field of study	Sociology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2027	Academic year of realisation of subject	2028/2029
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits	1.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
Conducting unit	Division of Sociological Theory and Social Research Methodology -> Institute of Sociology -> Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr hab. Daniel Wicenty	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	15	0.0	10.0	25

Subject objectives

Sensitizing the students to secrecy as a fundamental form of social life. Getting acquinted with basic theoretical concepts of secrecy. Distinguishing the real life secrecy and the conspiracy diccourse secrecy. Analyzing modern and historical examples of secrecy. Recognition abilty on restricted, secret nad informal areas. Checking secrecy for its social functions

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[SOCL3_W02] The graduate has advanced knowledge about different types of social structures and institutions such as the state, nation, classes and social strata, ethnic group, local community, social group, family, political party, enterprise, she/he knows the differences in the functioning principles of social, public and commercial organisations	The student has advanced knowledge of various types of covert structures and institutions.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[SOCL3_W07] The graduate has an advanced knowledge about the ethical and moral norms of social life as well as legal and organisational norms regulating social life, is familiar with the processes of their introduction and changes	The student has advanced knowledge of ethical and moral norms of social life, with particular emphasis on secret organizations and covert groups.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[SOCL3_W04] The graduate knows and understands in an advanced way the types of informal and formal social bonds that arise in different types of groups, social networks and societies, and with the regularities governing their change.	The graduate has in-depth knowledge and understanding of different types of informal and formal social bonds formed in different types of groups, social networks and societies, and the regularities governing their change.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[SOCL3_W05] The graduate has advanced knowledge of man as a subject constituting social structures and the rules of their functioning, as well as acting in these structures and participating in cultural practices in the local, regional environment, the area of national culture and global exchange	The student has advanced knowledge of the human being as a subject constituting social structures, the principles of their functioning, and acting within these structures.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[SOCL3_U02] The graduate is able to use theoretical knowledge from different streams of sociology and acquire data to analyse specific social processes and phenomena	The graduate is able to use theoretical knowledge from different streams of sociology and acquire data to analyse specific social processes and phenomena related to covert organizations.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[SOCL3_U08] The graduate is able to analyse current social phenomena in the context of knowledge about the mechanisms of human activity, the impact of a group on an individual and the processes of change that Polish society, European society and that of the world undergoes	The student is able to analyze current social phenomena in the context of knowledge about the mechanisms of secret organizations and situations of secrecy.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

Secrecy as a cognitive concept in sociology and other social sciences

Secrecy and conspiracy theories

Social functions of secrecy (identity multiplication, cost reduction, gaining power, structuralization of social life, generating of trust, socialization, privacy protection, creating prestige)

Secrecy and secrets in everyday life

Sociology of lying: a sketch

Masonry as a historical and modern form of secret organization

Secrecy in public life: democratic and non-democratic regimes

Prerequisites and co-requisites	Effective choice of specialty Sociology in action. Basic sociological knowledge on interactions, groups and organizations. In order to pass the lecture, the student must first pass the classes.	
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold / Percentage of the final grade
	final exam result	50.0% / 100.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Ekman Paul, 2009, *Telling Lies. Clues to Deceit in the Marketplace, Politics and Marriage*, New York Goffman Erving, *The presentation of self in everyday life*, various editions Marx Gary T., 1984, "Notes On The Discovery, Collection, And Assessment Of Hidden And Dirty Data" in: J. Schneider, J. Kitsuse, *Studies in the Sociology of Social Problems*, New York (free acces: https://web.mit.edu/gtmarx/www/dirty.html) Simmel Georg, *Sociology* (chapters Secrecy and Secret society), various editions Sojak Radosław, Wicenty Daniel, 2005, *Lost reality: on the social construction of ignorance*, Warszawa
	Supplementary literature	Arcimowicz Jolanta, Bieńko Mariola, Łaciak Beata, 2018, *Sneaks,informers, whistleblowers? A socio-legal study*, Warszawa Birchall Clare. 2016. Six Answers to the Question «What is Secrecy Studies?». Secrecy and Society, 1 (1) Czech Franciszek ed., 2014, *Structure of conspiracy theories. Anthology*, Kraków Kamiński Marek, 2010, *Games Prisoners Play: The Tragicomic Worlds of Polish Prison*, New Jersey Maret, Susan. 2016. The Charm of Secrecy: Secrecy and Society as Secrecy Studies. Secrecy and Society, no. 1(1) Saviano Roberto, *Gomorrah*, various editions Tefft Stanton ed., 1980, *Secrecy. A Cross-Cultural Perspective*, New York Tokarzewska Monika, 2008, "Georg Simmel on secrecy", Studia Socjologiczne, no. 2
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Recognizing proper function of secrecy in a given piece of text	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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