



Syllabus

Term: 2026/27/1 **Subject name:** Social Studies for Geographers **Subject code:** AFOLNA0301

Unit (Unit code) Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences (FOLDRAJZ)

Lecturer responsible for the course: Dr. TÉSITS Róbert

Requirement: Exam

Classes per week : 2/0/2

Classes per term:

Purpose of education:

Aims: 1. To provide students with insight into the geography-related economic, demographic and sociological knowledge forming an important basis for the later interpretation and the geographical approach of their subjects. 2. To give insight into some research topics and methodological issues of social sciences, particularly economics. 3. To give insight into regional/practical appearance and the cause-effect relationships of specific issues in social sciences. On successful completion of this course students are expected to be familiar with the epistemological and methodological foundations of social sciences, learn the basic skills of social research, basic concepts and theories necessary for understanding the problems and conflicts of our society, the main directions of the observed changes and the possibilities of interventions needed. to have an understanding of the basic context of economics, the motivations of economic actors, the social and economic events taking place around the narrow and wider environment, so they have the ability to become active participants of social life. to understand and interpret the complex global economic and sociological relations. to be able to collect and evaluate data, recognize the relationship between the individual and the community, and distinguish the different social systems. to be capable of making sociological analysis and presentation; to be open to recognize and analyse the problems of different social groups, to be able to think independently on the results of the social sciences (eg. a sociological) research and prepare presentations of these, compare opposing theoretical and practical approaches in order to develop the analytical and creative thinking.

Contents:

Milestones of the lecture: The social science in the system of disciplines, main stages of development in the social sciences. The concept of economics, its subject, purpose, history and alternative trends. Economic actors, motivations, concepts, types and social needs of the business assets. Operation and regional characteristics of the market, market anomalies, inputs, markets and social welfare. Economic systems, coordination mechanisms and principles, reciprocity, redistribution and socio-economic role of market exchange of goods, social importance of the economic role of the state. Macroeconomic basics. The indicators of macroeconomic performance. Inflation, employment and unemployment, socio-economic role of employment and social policy. The monetary policy. The role and functions of the central bank in economy, instruments and mechanisms of fiscal policy. The budgetary deficit and public debt. Social significance of financial and banking activities. Main issues and trends of integration economy. The main theoretical, geographical and political issues related to the development of the economic centres. The milestones of development of the single European idea and its socio-economic significance (History of EU I). The main issues and social consequences of the expansion of economic cooperation (History II). Decisive moments of the Single Market and consequences of EU



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membership. Future socio-economic challenges of the regional economic cooperation.

Milestones of the seminar: Week 1 Introduction, semester schedule, seminar requirements. Week 2 Demographic and population models, spatial patterns and solutions to conflicts. Week 3 Problems and treatment options of demographic groups. Week 4 International and domestic trends of social mobility, problems and opportunities. Week 5 Ethnic groups, minorities, international and domestic conflicts and possible solutions. Week 6 Social inequalities in theory and practice. Week 7 The emergence of social problems and economic mechanisms in space. Week 8 Possibilities and limits of productive sectors of the economy in the European space I. Week 9 Opportunities for the productive sectors of economy in the European space II. Week 10 Possibilities and limitations of economic services in the European space I. Week 11 Possibilities and limitations of economic services in the European space II. Week 12 Possibilities and limitations of balanced social, economic and regional development in the European space. Week 13 Summary, synthesis and evaluation.

System of examining and valuation:

Evaluation is partly based on a written examination test including open and closed (multiple choice) questions at the end of semester. The seminar presentations are also part of the final grade, grade-weighting is done as follows: • written test 50%. • seminar oral presentations 50%. Grading percentages: • less than 50% = 1 • 50 to 64,99% = 2 • 65 to 74,99% = 3 • 75 to 84,99% = 4 85+% = 5 Attendance at all activities will be monitored. Another criterion is that none of the types listed above can be (1) insufficient.

Bibliography:

Mankiw, N. G. (2011). Principles of Economics. 5th edition. South-Western Cengage Learning. Mason: USA.
Perry, J. A. and Perry, E. K. (2012). Contemporary Society: An Introduction to Social Science. Customized Textbook, London: 13th Pearson Education.

Bibliography: