

YOUTH IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY
LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME
MANDATORY & ELECTIVE COURSES - short descriptions

MANDATORY COURSES

Youth Sociology as an introductory course aims at introducing students to the basic theoretical approaches to youth as an integral part of modern society and at the same time a specific social group. The course includes a socio-historical overview of the emergence of the phenomenon of youth, the development of scientific discipline, theoretical approaches and basic concepts, the main social characteristics of young people and relevant scientific research on contemporary generations of young people. In this context, following concepts will be tackled - age differentiation considered as a form of social stratification of modern societies, the process of transition from childhood to adulthood, age cohorts and different stages of youth maturation, intergenerational and intragenerational differences, social heterogeneity and conceptual frameworks of youth, and key research findings on youth. (Anja Gvozdanović, PhD)

Mentoring support will be provided to students through both group and individual (online) mentoring meetings. There will be three group mentoring meetings, at the beginning of the programme, in its middle and at its very end. Before each group meeting, students will be given a preparation task that they will present at the meeting and which will form the backbone of the mentoring meeting. The first mentoring meeting will be focused on looking into the past, i.e. reflecting on the path that students have gone through until the moment of enrollment in this programme, and the place that this programme has in their personal and professional development, as well as in their educational path. The second mentoring meeting will be focused on the present, i.e. on reflecting on to the programme itself and to linking what they learn with practice, and who they are as individuals and professionals. The third mentoring meeting will be focused on looking into the future and creating plans for students' own further professional development. (Sunčana Kusturin, PhD)

Youth Research and Research with the Youth Strategies as an introductory research course aims at introducing students to the basic methodological concepts, procedures and research practices relevant to the field of youth work. Also, the course aims to train students for independent drafting of research design and the implementation of small-scale research. The course includes an overview of key concepts related to basic research methods with an emphasis on qualitative paradigm and different participatory forms of research, targeting participatory action research in particular. In this context, students will be introduced to the basic methods of data collection, analysis, interpretation and presentation of the obtained data, illustrating what trustworthiness represents in the whole research cycle. Also, basic ethical and professional principles in conducting research with youth will be tackled. The "hidden" agenda of the course is to demystify (scientific) research and empower students for their own

independent research within their organisations/communities. (Bojana Čulum Ilić, PhD and Nikola Baketa, PhD)

Practicum - Research and methodology aims to encourage and empower students to apply the acquired theoretical knowledge in other (compulsory and elective) courses in the field of research practice. This course represents the basis for students' final 'thesis' development. students are expected to conduct small-scale research in their own (local) communities that will be related to young people and therefore to 'exercise' the whole-approach research cycle - (I) to develop their own research design, (II) conduct a research/collect data, (III) analyse and interpret the data, (IV) write down the final report/'thesis', that should all culminate in (v) designing a certain evidence-based activity in their local communities as an appropriate action to address the issue(s) that emerged as a result of the research done. Since it is a contextual course, the spectrum of research design can vary, for example from descriptive to evaluative (draft) research. Under the mentorship of the course leaders, each student should propose his / her own small-scale research task that would make a simple analysis of the need in a specific selected local community. Very similarly, the range of practical tasks within this course can vary from an activist task, organizing a workshop, lectures or dissemination activities within the community. (Bojana Čulum Ilić, PhD and Nikola Baketa, PhD)

Types and Approaches in Youth Work is an introductory course that aims to present and analyse the basic approaches and conceptualization of youth work as such. The course looks at the phenomenon of youth work from an interdisciplinary perspective in order to answer the question of what youth work really is, how it differs from similar concepts and what are its manifestations. (Marko Kovačić, PhD)

Developing Youth Civic Competence offers an overview of basic concepts related to issues of civic education. Starting from the basic concepts of civic competence and factors of political socialization, the goal is to offer a theoretical understanding of the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the full and quality participation of young people in a democratic society. The second part of the course includes a policy review of the development of civic education in the European context and insights into research on youth political literacy in order to highlight the current situation, obstacles and potential solutions. (Tomaž Deželan, PhD)

ELECTIVE COURSES

Youth and Gender Equality aims to build students' ability to understand, advocate and introduce standards and practices of gender equality in working with and for young people through interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary discussion. The basic theoretical starting point of the course is how youth and gender are socially constructed categories to which are attached and assigned roles, statuses, duties and responsibilities with all their possibilities and

limitations. Unlike youth as a transitional phase, gender continuously, throughout life, shapes the (self) perception of individuals. Many young people in Europe and around the world face challenges that prevent them from fully enjoying human rights and the freedoms and opportunities associated with them. In many cases, these challenges are gender specific, with young women and sometimes young men at a disadvantage. (Ana Maskalan, PhD)

Youth and Financial Independence will provide insights into the ways in which young people achieve financial independence, with an overview of the position of young people in the labor market in Europe. Presentations will also focus on new forms of work (influencers, gamers and private buyers) and on different modalities of achieving meaningful and sustainable work. Phenomena relevant to young people who want to achieve financial independence will also be analyzed, especially with regard to the occurrence of retraining, precarious work, migration, and the challenges of reconciling private and business life. The course will include the social, economic and partly psychological consequences of inequality caused by the position of young people in relation to their age and gender, with an overview of the main policies in the field of achieving financial independence of young people. (Dunja Potočnik, PhD)

Social entrepreneurship is a new and fast growing field of academic study and real world practice, which is increasingly finding its place in the youth field as it addresses some of the key challenges of youth as well as corresponds to the generational traits of contemporary generations of youth. With its mission of efficiently and creatively solving social problems, youth-related ones included, the concept is gaining relevance in many environments, particularly the ones with withdrawing or malperforming welfare states. This course introduces students to both theory and practice of social entrepreneurship and the students will learn about the entrepreneurial mindset, skills, and tools needed for successful youth social business. (Tomaž Deželan, PhD)

Digital (learning in) Youth Work aims to discuss concepts and theories in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) and educational technology. Main goals of the course are to teach students the theoretical principles of ICT in learning and understand its benefits; to explain the main didactic approaches to the use of ICT in youth work; to jointly critically analyze the use of ICT according to the degree of involvement in the educational process; to assist students in choosing how to use different ICT tools to organize activities in youth work training; to teach students how to plan the use of ICT in working with young people. (Marko Radovan, PhD)

Youth Work Ethics aims to acquaint students with the main (Western) moral theories, as well as relevant international moral codes and guidelines for working with young people, and to enable them to ethically evaluate various forms of youth work, as well as of public measures and public policy. The course is designed to provide an introduction to the ethics of working with young people, dealing with the content in three parts: (I) Basic (western) moral theories (deontology, utilitarianism, ethics of virtues) and their application in justifying practices and

public policies related to youth work. The main examples of moral justification based on these theories will be analyzed, and the problems and shortcomings characteristic of each theory will be pointed out, as well as the problems of theory-guided approaches to moral issues in working with young people; (II) International and domestic moral codes of youth work, including the meaning and scope of some of the core values of youth work (equality, participation and inclusion, autonomy); (III) The role of youth workers in the moral upbringing and education of young people, the promotion of democratic values and active citizenship, with an overview of basic methods and the analysis and evaluation of several case studies. (Ivan Cerovac, PhD)

State, community and youth – political philosophy course aims to discuss certain concepts related to the concept of community and/or state with special reference to the role of young people. Two particular concepts will be tackled: (I) Nationalism and patriotism in the context of theory and youth, and (II) Gender issue in the context of contemporary philosophy of politics and youth. Nationalism will be presented and discussed as a special manifestation of the communitarian perspective. The focus of the discussion are contemporary proposals that seek to show that national affiliation is a necessary dimension for the meaning of life, but also that this dimension can be well protected in special models of the liberal-democratic state. Arguments that try to prove the uniqueness of national affiliation in relation to other forms of affiliation will be presented and critically discussed. The topic of patriotism will also be presented and critically discussed, as a matter of duty in relation to one's own state affiliation. As a separate unit, the gender issue in contemporary political philosophy will be addressed. First of all, the critique according to which neutral liberalism neglects the need to correct injustices in civil society, as well as the debate on the need to conform public institutions and the female model of living, will be considered. The issue of affirmative action will also be presented and critically discussed. (Nebojša Zelič, PhD)

Adolescent and youth development aims to deliver to students theoretically grounded empirical knowledge about multiperspective development during adolescence and young adulthood. Based on the biopsychosocial paradigm of the development, information on the biological basis of brain development, basic developmental tasks and contextual specifics of the functioning of young people will be provided. Development factors important for understanding the needs of young people in modern society will be analyzed. Psychological aspects (identity), those social ones (expectations about adolescent development and developmental challenges during the transition to adulthood in different settings), as well as contextual determinants of development (universality and cultural specifics of development) will be presented and discussed. In addition, risk and protective factors of psychological adjustment of adolescents and young people will be tackled. (Sanja Smojver Ažić, PhD)

Youth and Cultural Policy course aims to discuss with students the quality work in the field of civil society, government and other institutions, as well as work with stakeholders in these areas, in terms of better understanding of general social processes and procedures and specific areas of culture, with emphasis on youth cultural programs, and cultural programs for young people in general. Course is organised around two major areas - the concept of cultural policies (social and historical conditions of cultural policies, administrative and legal frameworks, political strategies, tactics of civil society), and examples of good practice in terms of specific project proposals intended for young people or implemented by young people, where most common project segments (analysis, issues, goals, activities, collaborators, sustainability, budget) will be presented. (Vjeran Pavlaković, Phd and Renato Stanković, mag. cult.)

Mladi, politika i politika za mlade - Hrvatska u europskom kontekstu ima za cilj problematizirati odnos politike i mladih kao zasebne društvene grupe. Analiza tog odnosa uključuje proučavanje političke kulture mladih, odnosno njihove političke svijesti, vrijednosti i obrazaca ponašanja. Pritom se poseban naglasak stavlja na različite oblike političke participacije mladih što treba omogućiti da se studentima objasni kakva je uloga mladih u demokratskim političkim procesima te kako se u suvremenim demokratskim sustavima donose odluke koje se tiču mladih. Premda su u relevantnoj znanstvenoj literaturi mladi prepoznati kao društvena skupina s deficitom društvene i političke moći, oni ipak imaju prilike sudjelovati u donošenju političkih odluka. Stoga kolegij opisuje i analizira različite modalitete donošenja tih odluka te pozicionira mlade kao (potencijalno) aktivne sudionike političkog života društvene zajednice, prije svega u Hrvatskoj, a promatrajući i specifičan nacionalni kontekst u širim europskim okvirima. (dr. sc. Vlasta Ilišin)