DAY I / SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

THEORY (10:30 - 12:00)

In the theory section we will show how the evolution of social psychology into a scientific study of people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by others. We will focus on answering the question how we can influence the behavior of others. Once we explored some key concepts like the principles of influence by Robert Cialdini it will be easier to understand how theory of social psychology can be applied in a variety of contexts – from politics, through successful marketing to everyday life.

METHODS (12:30 - 14:00)

Social psychology evolved thanks to two famous experiments. The first one by Stanley Milgram was about obedience – it turned out that when following orders, participants would go as far as to give others an electric shock of 450-volt shock. In the prison experiment by Philip Zimbardo, some students acting as prison guards would use psychological torture on those acting as prisoners. These experiments raised many ethical questions about methods in social psychology. In this section we will show how psychology experiments and surveys are designed to provide answers about human behavior.

DISCUSSION (15:00 - 16:30)

Prejudices and stereotypes

In the discussion section we will try to answer some questions together - are we all prejudiced? Are stereotypes controllable or inevitable products of human nature? We will draw on examples from contemporary society to illustrate these questions looking at groups that are most often perceived as discriminated - women, ethnic and racial minorities, homosexual – and see how prejudice and stereotypes affect human behavior.
DAY II / SOCIOLOGY

THEORY (10:30 - 12:00)

In the theory section we will study some of the key figures of sociology – Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Karl Marx and Anthony Giddens. All of them struggled with a fundamental question – does the society influence the individual or the other way around? We will show differences in their approaches to these questions that fuel sociological debates to this day. We will also learn few basic sociological concepts, such as social fact, ideal type or class conflict.

METHODS (12:30 - 14:00)

Sociology research can be based either on field study or on surveys. Some sociologists prefer more direct contact with the subject they study – much like anthropologists, they go out to the group they want to study, talk to people or even participate in the group they want to describe. Other sociologists prefer to perform surveys and look for important relations in numbers. In this section we will look at both types of methods to show how to study human social behavior.

DISCUSSION (15:00 - 16:30)

Internet and new media

In this section we will discuss how internet and new media changed our social life. Do they lead to greater isolation or greater social cohesion? Should we control what happens on the internet in any way? We will touch on variety of contemporary issues such as social media like Facebook, ACTA protests, freedom of speech and privacy in the Internet.

DAY III / ECONOMICS

THEORY (10:30 - 12:00)

In this section we will study how historical events influenced evolution of economics though. In particular, we will focus on how key thinkers as Adam Smith, J.M. Keynes or Milton Freedman tackled fundamental questions about the free market and the role that government should play in it. We will also look at how the theory of rational choice influenced the foundations the discipline and how it changed with the discoveries of behavioral economics.

METHODS (12:30 - 14:00)

Why is it that the economy is not a simple sum of companies, consumers and other actors – and what works in small scale will not work in the big one and vice versa? The discipline of economics is divided into two areas – microeconomics and macroeconomics. In this section we will think about the differences between the two. We will also discuss why the economists use mathematical methods are so frequently and why they are more and more likely to draw on experimental methods to test the basic assumptions of economic theories.

DISCUSSION (15:00 - 16:30)

Global Crisis and Poland

In the discussion section, we will focus on the most urgent problem of contemporary economics – the reasons behind the 2008 financial crisis and its consequences for the global economy. Drawing from literature on the subject we will try to answer the following questions – How did the crisis happen? How did the financial crash turn into a worldwide economic recession? What are the most important consequences of the crisis for economics as a science and economic policy? We will also discuss the effectiveness of methods used to combat the crisis used by governments in the US, the Eurozone and Poland.
DAY IV / ANTHROPOLOGY

THEORY (10:30 - 12:00)
Usually, we get a chance to know the fascinating world of other cultures by travelling to exotic places or reading books. We curiously observe behaviors that seem unusual to us. During the theory section we will show the differences between anthropological description of culture and casual tourist observation. How do anthropologists see the relation between culture and society? How do they give meaning to different aspects of culture in a broader social context? We will examine the development of anthropology as a scientific discipline. We will discuss the research conducted by the most famous anthropologists such as Bronisław Malinowski, Marcel Mauss and Claude Levi-Strauss and Cliford Geertz. We will also take a look at the development of social sciences in a broader perspective.

METHODS (12:30 - 14:00)
How to describe and understand a different culture?
The most often used anthropology method is field study. The researchers immerse themselves in a different culture in order to obtain information about the customs and lifestyle of people who belong to the cultural group they study. We will examine ethnographic methods by reading fragments of foundational texts. We will also look at strong and weak sides of this research method.

DISCUSSION (15:00 - 16:30)
Cultural diversity and human rights universality

DAY V / WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCTION (10:30 - 12:00)
On last day, the participants will get a chance to apply in practice the knowledge and skills they gained during the course. We will focus on contemporary social problems, such as migrations and gender equality. We will see how to use the methods we studied during the class. The discussion will be an opportunity to share your own observations about social issues and test your skills in an academic debate.

TEAM WORK (12:30 - 14:00)
During this sessions, the participants will be divided into groups. Each group will prepare a research plan on the subject of migrations from the perspective of one of the social disciplines. The group will define the research problem according to the characteristics of the given discipline and try to match it with the appropriate research methods.

DEBATE (15:00 - 16:30)
During the final session, each participant will play a role of one of a social scientists – a sociologist, economist, anthropologist or psychologist. We will discuss the role of gender in the society drawing on the knowledge of different disciplines acquired during the class. We will get to know the rules of an academic debate, where you need to support your opinions with relevant social theories and research.