



SYLLABUS

Subject name: Philosophy (for social scientists)

Subject code: ESZOCBA77

Responsible lecturer: Sik Domonkos

Type: lecture

Level: BA

Credit: 3

Course description:

During the semester an attempt is made to highlight those social problems, which motivated the originally philosophical reflection on social phenomena. Firstly, Marx's analysis of capitalism and alienation, Arendt's analysis of the public sphere, Habermas' analysis of lifeworld and system, Honneth's analysis of recognition and Foucault's analysis of power are analysed in order to introduce the main topics and approaches. Secondly, the potential answers to these challenges are discussed: based on Kant's moral philosophy and Rawls' contract theory, the question of justice; based on Lévinas' moral phenomenology the question of responsibility and solidarity; based on Koselleck's and Löwith's history of philosophy the question of social development and regression are analysed. These theories not only outline the broader stakes of social sciences, but also provide access points to philosophical reflection through topics relevant for aspiring social science students.

Course outline:

Assessment:

Required readings:

Karl Marx: A Reader (ed. Jon Elster) Cambridge University Press 1986. chapter II. Alienation
Hannah Arendt: The human condition. Chicago University Press 1958. I. The Human Condition
Michel Foucault: The subject and power. In: Critical Inquiry vol. 8 no.4
(http://www.unisa.edu.au/Global/EASS/HRI/foucault_-_the_subject_and_power.pdf)

Axel Honneth: *The Struggle for Recognition: The Moral Grammar of Social Conflicts*. Polity Press
chapter 5. Patterns of intersubjective recognition
John Rawls: *A theory of justice*. Harvard University Press 1971. chapter 1 Justice as fairness