

Government of the Russian Federation
Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution
for Higher Professional Education
«National Research University
«Higher School of Economics»

Discipline program
«Economic Sociology»

For course 040100.62 «Sociology», preparation for a Bachelor's degree.

Program developed by:

Barsukova S.U., P.E.S., Professor of Economic Sociology (svbars@mail.ru)

Berdysheva E.S., C.S.S., Professor of Economic Sociology (eberdysheva@hse.ru)

Kalimullin T.R., C.S.S., Professor of Economic Sociology (tagirk@mail.ru)

Kotelnikova Z.V., senior lecturer of Economic Sociology (kotelnikova@hse.ru)

Markin M.E., lecturer of Economic Sociology (mmarkin@hse.ru)

Approved at the meeting of the Department of Economic Sociology on November 11th, 2011.

Department chairman _____ V. V. Radayev

Recommended by the Board of Education for Sociology _____ 2011.

Chairman _____ V.G. Ledyayev

Approved by the Academic Board of the Department of Sociology _____ 2011.

Academic Secretary E.V. Nadezhdina _____

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This program may not be used by other departments within the University or other institutions of higher education without permission of the Department-developer of this program.

Areas of use and reference codes.

This educational discipline program establishes the minimal standards for attained student knowledge and skills, and determines the content and types of academic studies and reporting.

The program is intended for professors teaching this particular discipline, teaching assistants, and students in the 040100.62 «Sociology» course, that are studying within the «Economic Sociology» specialization, and are studying the «Economic Sociology» discipline.

The program was developed in accordance with:

- The educational standards set forth by Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Professional Education «National Research University «Higher School of Economics», for the 040100.62 «Sociology» course, in preparation for a Bachelor's degree.
- Educational program 040100.62 «Sociology» in preparation for a Bachelor's degree.
- The University's working academic plan for the course 040100.62 «Sociology» in preparation for a Bachelor's degree, that was approved in 2011.

Goals for studying the discipline.

The goals studying the «Economic Sociology» course are:

- acquiring an understanding of the core of the concept-based instruments of modern economic sociology
- acquiring knowledge of the main approaches of modern economic sociology and its key research issues
- acquiring basic skills of interpreting data obtained in the course of modern socio-economic empirical research

Scope of student knowledge that will be acquired as a result of mastering the discipline.

As a result of mastering discipline of “Economic Sociology”, the student will:

- Know the main approaches in modern economic sociology and its key research issues.
- Be able to utilize the core of the concept-based instruments of modern economic sociology when studying economic events
- Have the skills (acquire the necessary experience) for interpreting data obtained in the course of modern socio-economic empirical research.

As a result of learning the “Economic sociology” discipline, the student acquires the following competences:

Competence	Code in FSES	Descriptions – main signifiers of acquired knowledge (markers of reaching results)	Forms and methods of teaching that aid in formation and development of skills
Ability to perceive, generalize and analyze data, set goals and choose ways of reaching them (<i>partial development</i>)	OK-1	Grasps lecture materials, reads required literature in preparation for seminar work and participates in seminar discussions, uses a number of various sources when writing essays	Lecture attendance, preparation for and active participation in seminars, written essays
Ability to express oral and written thought logically, clearly and in a well-argued manner (<i>partial development</i>)	OK-2	Reads required literature in preparation for seminars, participates in seminar discussions, uses various arguments to support opposing points of view in written essays	Preparation for and active participation in seminars, written essays
Ability to analyze socially important problems and processes (<i>partial development</i>)	OK-10	Reads required literature in preparation for seminar work and participates in seminar discussions, uses a number of various sources when writing essays	Preparation for and active participation in seminars, written essays
Ability to work with data/information in global computer networks (<i>partial development</i>)	OK-14	Uses a number of various information sources when writing essays	Written essays
Ability to use basic and professional knowledge and skills on the fundamentals of sociology theory and methods of sociological research in professional work (<i>partial development</i>)	PK-1	Reads required literature in preparation for seminars, participates in seminar discussions, uses various arguments to support opposing points of view in written essays	Preparation for and active participation in seminars, written essays
Ability to process and analyze data and prepare analytical solutions, expert conclusions and recommendations (<i>partial development</i>)	PK-8	Reads required literature in preparation for seminars, participates in seminar discussions, uses various arguments to support opposing points of view in written essays	Preparation for and active participation in seminars, written essays

The discipline's place within the overall educational program structure.

The “Economic Sociology” discipline is considered a basic course in the 040100.62 “Sociology” course of study in preparation for a Bachelor's degree.

The study of this discipline is based on the following prerequisite disciplines:

- Sociological Theory
- The History of Economic Studies
- Economic Theory (microeconomics)

The main points/theses of this discipline must be subsequently used in studying the following disciplines:

- Economic Sociology Practicum
- Economic Sociology-2
- Socio-economic behavior of households
- Sociology of entrepreneurship
- Informal economy

Topic plan of the academic discipline.

N/N	Name of topic	Total hours	Course hours		Independent work
			Lectures	Seminars	
1	The establishment of economic sociology	18	2	2	14
2	The subject of economic sociology	18	2	2	14
3	Social rootedness of economic action	18	2	2	14
4	Cultural and authoritative bases of economic action	18	2	2	14
5	Market as a form of enterprise	18	2	2	14
6	State regulation of enterprise	18	2	2	14
7	Informal economics as form of enterprise	18	2	2	14
8	Sociology of economic organizations	18	2	2	14
9	Sociology of occupation	18	2	2	14
10	Sociology of households	18	2	2	14
11	Sociology of consumption	18	2	2	14
12	Sociology of money	18	2	2	14
13	Social stratification	18	2	2	14
14	Sociology of economic development	18	2	2	14
15	Formation and change of economic ideologies	18	2	2	14
Preparation for midterm test		14	0	0	14
Written essay		20	0	0	20
Preparation for final examination		20	0	0	20
TOTAL		324	30	30	264

Means of student scholastic attainment control.

Type of control	Form of Control	Module		Parameters
		2	3	
In progress	Midterm test	1	0	Written test, 1 hour 20 mins
	Essay	0	1	12000 characters (without spaces)
Final	Final Exam	0	1	Written test 1 hour 20 mins

Grading for the discipline

The final grade for the discipline is weighed as follows:

- 10% - Midterm test
- 25% - Active participation on seminars
- 25% - Essay
- 40% - Final examination

Criteria for grading skills and attainment.

Grades on all forms of attainment control are based on the 10-point scale system.

The midterm test is to be taken in the middle of the course, in the instructor's presence.

Prior to the beginning of the test, a couple of questions are given out, which take into the account materials that were covered in both lectures and seminars. One question is chosen out of the two.

The answer is to submitted in written form, as an essay. The use of all texts is prohibited. The time given for this assignment is 1 hour and 20 mins. The length of the essay is unlimited.

Active participation in seminars is graded based on the following:

- commenting and giving opinions on a given topic, asking questions to those giving a report (during report discussion)
- giving a report on a given subject (in preparation for a report one has to, first of all, highlight the author's main idea, secondly, in 10-15 minutes state the main ideas/contents of the text, and thirdly, give one's own commentary regarding the text and answer questions).

Essays are graded based on the following criteria:

- stating the problem at hand
- the level of resolution to set goals and problems
- clarity and comprehensiveness of conclusions

- volume and quality of quoted literature
- accurate formatting (including correct bibliographical description of quoted and cited literature and correctly formed bibliography)

All essays will be checked for plagiarism, and in cases where it is determined that essays contains any plagiarized materials, the grade for the essay will be “0”.

The final examination is to be taken at the end of the course, in the instructor's presence. Prior to the beginning of the examination, a couple of questions are given out, which take into the account materials that were covered in both lectures and seminars. One question is chosen out of the two. The answer is to submitted in written form, as an essay. The use of all texts is prohibited. The time given for this assignment is 1 hour and 20 mins. The length of the essay is unlimited.

A failing grade for the final written examination will automatically mean a failing grade for the overall course, regardless of previously collected points in the course.

Course materials and information for the discipline.

Basic textbook: Radaev V.V. Economic Sociology. - M.: SI HSE Publishing, 2005.

Discipline contents: Lectures

Topic 1. The establishment of economic sociology (2 hours)

Model of sociological person and its evolution. Sociology classics (K. Marx, A. Durkheim, M. Veber).

Substantivist school (K. Polanyi). Functionalism (T. Parsons, N. Smelzer). New economic sociology (M. Granovetter, R. Svedberg).

Key modern socio-economic approaches.

Topic 2. The subject of economic sociology (2 hours).

Economic theory and economic sociology: comparative analysis of disciplinary differences.

The subject of economic sociology.

Economic action as form of social action. Social action and its' types.

Economic action and its' elements.

Economically conditional and economically oriented actions.

Social rootedness of economic actions. Social networks, institutional establishments, authoritative and cultural relationships.

Topic 3. Social rootedness of economic action (2 hours).

The problem of social rootedness of economic action. Over and under socialized concepts of human action and sociology and economic theory (M. Granovetter).

Substantive and formal meanings of the term “economic”. Economics as an institutionally formalized process. Types of exchange: reciprocity, redistribution, exchange.

Definition of economics. Economics as an aggregate of actions. Elements of economic action. The notion of “enterprise”.

Topic 4. Cultural and authoritative bases of economic action. (2 hours).

Bases of enterprise motivation. The difference between “motive”, “stimulus”, “coercion”. Forms of coercion (noneconomic, economic, technological, ideological). Sources of enterprise motivation (interest, social norms, coercion).

Forms of capitals. Incorporated, institutionalized and objectified states of capital. Capital conversion.

Socio-cultural approach. The notion of economic culture. Normative aspects of economic culture: enterprise role, social norms, socialization and sanctions, conventions and institutes. Cultural rootedness of economic action. The role of culture in economic theory and economic sociology. Economic theory as element of enterprise culture.

Topic 5. Market as a form of enterprise (2 hours)

The notion of market and its' major elements. Network approach. The notion of social network and its' structural characteristics. Density, stability and frequency of social contacts, structural rootedness of social connections (structural voids). “Strong” and “weak” social connections. The problem of reproduction and short-circuiting of a social network.

Institutional approach. The notion of social institute. Formal and informal rules.

Organizational fields and authority relationships. Economic theory of conventions. Concepts of control.

Historic-anthropological and ethnographic approaches. Enterprise as provision for life supporting activities and economic growth. Evolution of enterprise as a historical process (M. Veber, K. Polanyi). Production and interpretation of significance in the field of enterprise.

Ethnographic research in economic sociology. Local culture and local rationality. (M. Abolaphia)

Topic 6. Government regulation of enterprise. (2 hours)

The notion of government and elements of government. Three classical models of government (night watch, market agent and configuration manager of market relations).

Types of cooperation between governments and markets. The “helping hand” model and the “thieving hand” model. Models of public good governments, macroeconomic stabilization, social rights governments, developing governments, socialist governments.

Traditional and new paradigm of government and market relations. Influence of social connections on government decisions.

Topic 7. Informal economics as a form of enterprise (2 hours).

The notion of informal economics. Similarities and differences between formal and informal rules.

Segments of informal economics, their functional specifics. Criminal economics, grey economics, gift economics, home economics.

Reasons for the existence of informal economics in developed and developing countries. History of studying informal economics: the evolution of ideas and methods of measuring informal economic activity.

Topic 8. Sociology of economic organizations (2 hours).

The notion of organization and its' key attributes. Major socio-economic approaches to organization analysis (network, institutional, popularist). Sociological portrait of an economic organization. Bureaucracy as form of modern economic organization.

Firm as an alternative to market. The principal agent problem. Transactional costs. Organizational forms and their evolution in Russia. Business networks.

Major types of organizations. Community, corporation and association as ideal types of economic organizations. Strategies of building inter-firm relationships. Main models of asserting

authority in an economic organization: bureaucracy, paternalism, fraternalism, partnership.

Interrelationship of “traditional” and “modern” organizational forms. Theories of organizational control. Complication and blurring of organizational borderlines.

Topic 9. Sociology of occupation. (2 hours).

Occupational relationships. Relationships on the labor market. Inhomogeneity of the labor market. Flexible occupation. Concepts of labor market segmentation. Factors of segmentation and segregation.

Sociostructural (network) approach to analyzing labor markets. Strong and weak connections. Formal and informal employment channels. Human and social capital on the labor market. Meaning of specific skills for employees and employers. Role of “signals” when hiring.

The problem of defining and measuring unemployment. Types of unemployment: frictional, seasonal, structural. Forced and hidden unemployment. Particularities of unemployment in Russia at the end of the 20th-beginning of 21st centuries.

Topic 10. Sociology of households (2 hours).

The notion of household. New economic theory of domestic production (G. Becker, Y. Mincer)

Immeasurable economics. Family economics. Ethics of survival (G. Scott). Substantive economics (A.V. Chayanov, K. Polanyi). Moral economics.

Informal economics. Changes in the structure of household economics (G. Gershuni, A. Mingionni).

Topic 11. Sociology of consumption (2 hours)

Differences and similarities of economic and sociological theories of consumption. Specifics of the socio-economic approach to consumption analysis.

Prestigious and conspicuous consumption (T. Veblen). Consumption and lifestyle. (M. Veber). Consumption and the formation of consumer societies (G. Bourstein). Economics of symbols and signs. (S. Lash, J. Urri).

Habitus and differentiation of consumer practices (P. Bourdieu). Consumption and social

group stratification.

Topic 12. Sociology of money (2 hours)

The notion of money. Social function of money. Money as social attitude.

Socio-economic research of the population's financial behavior: social rootedness of money and the population's financial behavior, the influence of power allocation within a family on financial decisions.

The subject of sociology of financial markets. Social determinants of financial market player behavior. Social and political power on financial markets.

Topic 13. Social stratification (2 hours)

Social inequality and social stratification (term definition). Types of stratification systems (theory of capital, historical approach). Social mobility. Classes and status groups. The notions of ascriptive and reachable status. Status misalignment.

K. Marx's and M. Veber's social inequality theories. Major modern approaches of stratification analysis: neo-veberianism, functional school, neo-marxism. Comparative analysis.

Main elements of class structure: the elite, middle classes, lower classes, underclass. Problem of choice in stratification criteria. Social stratification of modern Russia. Models of class structure.

Topic 14. Sociology of economic development (2 hours)

Sociological approach to the history of economy. Major approaches to analysis of the history of economy. Formation approach (K. Marx). Postindustrialism (D. Bell). Theories of modernization and convergence. Globalization and the “new” theory of economy development.

Concept of parallelism in the development of economic processes. “Expolar” forms of economy development. Asian way of production and “asian despotism”. Civilizational approaches to economy analysis.

Multiplicity of capitalism's forms. Culture and the development of economy: anglo-saxon, german, scandinavian and asian capitalism.

Topic 15. Formation and change of economic ideologies (2 hours).

The notion of “economic ideology”. Three levels of reproduction of economic ideology: ideological system, economic program, and mass consciousness.

Major types of ideological systems: democracy, conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Ideological hybrids. Changes of ideological paradigms.

Discipline contents: seminars (texts for discussion)

Topic 1. The establishment of economic sociology (2 hours)

Topic 2. The subject of economic sociology (2 hours).

Topic 3. Social rootedness of economic action (2 hours).

Topic 4. Cultural and authoritative bases of economic action. (2 hours).

Topic 5. Market as a form of enterprise (2 hours)

Topic 6. Government regulation of enterprise. (2 hours)

Topic 7. Informal economics as a form of enterprise (2 hours).

Topic 8. Sociology of economic organizations (2 hours).

Topic 9. Sociology of occupation. (2 hours).

Topic 10. Sociology of households (2 hours).

Topic 11. Sociology of consumption (2 hours)

Topic 12. Sociology of money (2 hours)

Topic 13. Social stratification (2 hours)

Topic 14. Sociology of economic development (2 hours)

Topic 15. Formation and change of economic ideologies (2 hours).

Grading for scholastic progress of the student:

Essay

The essay topic is chosen by the student from a list provided by the instructor. The student is allowed to write the essay on a different topic, that has been previously agreed upon with the instructor (no later than the set date). The essay has to conform to certain restrictions.

The essay must be written in Times New Roman font, size 12, 1.5 line spacing, left alignment. Recommended length – 12000 characters without spaces, so about 7 pages.

The essay is to be submitted to the instructor both in electronic and print format no later than the due date, after which no work will be accepted and the grade for the essay will be “0”.

Essay requirements:

1. The text has to be well-structured and composed of three parts:
--*Introduction*, which, first of all, explains the problem at hand, second, key terms that are used elsewhere in the essay are given, and thirdly, a plan of the exposition is provided.
 2. *Body of the essay*, which provides arguments for both sides of the issue, first one, then the other.
 3. *Conclusion*, in which the result of the work, corresponding to the problem stated in the introduction, is provided.
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2. The terms used and arguments offered should be based on academic literature and quote it directly. Minimal number of quoted materials is 5 articles/ book chapters. The use of English-language literature is welcome.

Approximate essay topics:

Topic 1. Can the strategies of using electronic money in modern Russia be explained using the theory of social multiplicity of money or not?

Topic 2. Can one speak of the existence of a large middle class in modern Russia?

Topic 3. Is the existence of the economy in modern Russia possible without its' informal components?

Topic 4. Can modern Russia be called a “weak state”?

Topic 5. Can the american model of capitalism be created in modern Russia?

Grading for scholastic progress control of the student: questions for grading the level of scholastic attainment.

1. How were the basics of economic sociology established in the classical period?
2. What is the specificity of “economic imperialism”?
3. What new approaches to economic sociology appeared at the end of the 20th century?
4. How does “new” economic sociology differ from the “old”?
5. How did the institutionalization of new economic sociology occur?
6. Describe the evolution of sociological approaches to modeling economic activity.
7. What are the differences between economic theory and economic sociology?
8. What is social action?
9. What is economic action?
10. What are the particularities of methodological individualism in economic theory and sociology?
11. Describe and explain the socio-economic meaning of the notion “social rootedness”.
12. What are the differences between the economically oriented and economically determined types of action?
13. What are the key methodological goals of economic sociology?
14. What are the differences between the over- and undersocialized concepts of human action in sociology and economic theory?
15. Give a definition of the substantive and formal meaning of the term “economic”.
16. According to K. Polanyi, why is the economy an institutionally formalized process?
17. What are the differences in the processes of exchange that exist in symmetrical groups and in cost-creating markets?
18. What are the differences between generalized and negative reciprocity?
19. Give the definition of the term “coercion”. What forms of coercion can be used in economic

activities?

20. Name and characterize three sources of economic motivation.
21. How is “economic authority” defined?
22. What are the differences between “objective” and “subjective” rationality?
23. What is the specificity of the sociological view of the nature of rationality?
24. Define the notion of capital and characterize the main elements of capital.
25. Describe the major forms of capital in their objectified, institutionalized and incorporated form.
26. How can the notion of “market” be defined?
27. What is the specificity of the socio-economic approach to studying markets?
28. What elements are included in market cooperation?
29. What are the specifics of the network approach to studying markets?
30. What are the specifics of the institutional approach to studying markets?
31. How are rules of cooperation between market members formed?
32. What are the specifics of the socio-economic approach to studying the competition?
33. What are the specifics of the government's position regarding market members?
34. What are the differences between the “thieving”, “helping” and “invisible” market hand models?
35. What are the specifics of the “OLD paradigm” of the cooperation between state and market?
36. What are the specifics of the “NEW paradigm” of the cooperation between state and market?
37. Can the government/state be the sole corporate actor?
38. What is the difference between the socio-economic and economic approaches to studying informal economics?
39. What are the similarities and differences between formal and informal rules?
40. What criteria for typifying the segments of informal economy do socio-economists use?
41. Describe versions of informal economics in developing countries.
42. Describe versions of informal economics in developed countries.
43. Describe the main segments of informal economics.
44. Describe the main methods of measuring informal economics.
45. Describe the major economic theories of organizations. What is the sociological criticism of these theories?
46. What is an organization from the sociological point of view? What traits should an economic organization have?
47. Describe the main traits of a bureaucratic organization.
48. Name the main methods of building an organization by means of subordinating its members and asserting inner control.

49. Explain, from the point of view of institutional theory, what advantages a firm has over the market.
50. Describe four ways of building authority within a firm.
51. Name four major types of transactional costs and reasons why they happen.
52. Name the major elements of occupational relationships. Which social groups are outside of the occupational field (labor market)
53. Name key bases for labor market segmentation?
54. Which socio-demographic categories of workers end up in the least advantageous position in segmented markets?
55. What is the difference between strong and weak ties? Which of them, overall, are more useful in labor markets?
56. Why is investment in the human capital necessary and in which forms can they occur?
57. What is meant by the notion of household economy?
58. How correct is the juxtaposition of household economy and market occupation?
59. Which methods of measuring the cost of time spent on household economy and products not meant for sale are offered by researchers? What problems occur in measurements of this type?
60. How is the division of labor in households related to the changes in occupation on the labor market? Describe the models of household adaptation to these changes.
61. What is substantive economics and the ethics of survival?
62. Why doesn't the rationality principle often work in moral economics?
63. Which groups of factors determine the social structure of households?
64. Describe the economic and social approaches to analyzing the problem of constancy and change in consumer tastes?
65. What is the socio-economic content of the Veblen effect?
66. Formulate the main traits of P. Bourdieu's approach to consumption.
67. What is "consumer society" and what are some of its' particular traits?
68. What are some of the specifics of the postmodern view of consumption?
69. What does "mcdonaldization" mean and which processes in consumption can it be used to describe?
70. What is the specificity of the "economy of symbols and signs" concept?
71. How does money appear?
72. What are the specifics of the socio-economic approach to studying money?
73. What are the functions of money?
74. What are the reasons behind the multiplicity of money phenomenon?

75. Describe the main types of money and give a socio-economic interpretation of each of the described types.
76. How do social classes differ from status groups?
77. Describe the main characteristics of ascriptive and reachable status. What are the main differences between these two types of status?
78. How does a group construct its boundaries? Which indicators can be used to measure these boundaries?
79. What are the differences between weberian, functional and marxist stratification approaches?
80. How is the middle class defined in stratification research? Describe the main approaches and operationalization schemes.
81. What is the difference between the lower classes and the underclass?
82. What are the particularities of the socio-economic approach to economic development model analysis?
83. What are some of the criticisms of the marxist formational approach?
84. What are the positive and negative qualities of progressive theories in unilinear socio-economic development?
85. What are some of the specifics of the theory of world systems?
86. Describe the specifics of the “expolar” forms of economy development concept.
87. Describe the anglo-saxon, germanic, scandinavian and asian experience of building capitalism.
88. What is the “economic policy regime”? How do the differences in regimes of economic policy appear?
89. What is economic ideology?
90. What are three levels of economic ideology reproduction?
91. What are the main elements of conservatism, liberalism, democracy and socialism as ideological systems?
92. How does the change of economy ideologies occur?