

Government of the Russian Federation

**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution
for Higher Professional Education
«National Research University
«Higher School of Economics»**

Sociology department

**Discipline program
Sociology as calling and profession -
occupational guidance seminar (NIS)**

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

Program developed by:

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Approved at the meeting of the Department of Economic Sociology on _____ 2013.
Department chairman _____ N.E. Pokrovsky

Recommended by the Board of Education for Sociology _____ 2013.
Chairman _____

Approved by the Academic Board of the Department of Sociology _____ 2013.
Academic Secretary _____ (signature)

Moscow, 2013

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 040100.62 Sociology course, that are the studying the “Sociology as calling and profession – professional guidance seminar (NIS)” 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,
- Educational program 040100.62 Sociology,
- The University's working academic plan for 040100.62 Sociology, approved in 2011.

Goals for studying the discipline.

The goals for studying the “Sociology as calling and profession – professional guidance seminar (NIS)” discipline are: to invite the students to discuss various schools in sociology, expose the students to the basic problems of sociology, and to familiarize the students with these issues. The goal of the course is to provide professional guidance to those students looking to learn about sociology as a subject and possible fields where the students can apply their skill sets after graduating from the Department of Sociology of the SRI HSE.

The course is made up of master-classes (i.e., a lecture with the subsequent student discussion), that are led by specialists in the department of sociology. These specialists are mainly professors and assistant professors of the department of sociology at SRI HSE.

The main goals of the course are:

- to show the students various directions of research in sociology
- to give the students independent working skills from integrating lectures and literature concerning sociological issues
- to demonstrate the relationship of the university as a social institute with other social institutes, and, chiefly, with the profession of sociology.

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:

- key notions in sociological theory and major sociological approaches from research conducted by the lecturers leading the master-classes
- the history of research issues in sociology

Be able to:

- formulate a sociological issue/problem
- illustrate sociological terms
- argue that a chosen topic is relevant and important in a written work (essay).

Gain the following skills/experience:

- work with various sources of sociological information (recommended course literature, lecture materials)
- demonstrate the results of analytical work in essay form

As a result of learning the discipline, the student acquires the following expert skills:

Expert skill	Code in FSES/ SRU	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	-Extrapolated the written work topic (essay), demonstrates the relevance of the problem -Knows how to classify and organize the text logically	Lectures, preparation, and essay writing
Ability to express oral and written thought logically, clearly and in a well-argued manner (<i>partial development</i>)	OK-2	-can argument one's answers to questions and structure them (if the lecturer has questions on the essay) -leads the discussion, makes arguments and criticisms (asks questions during master-classes) -submits written work in accordance to format and content requirements (reflected in criteria for grading)	Lectures, preparation, and essay writing
Realization of the social importance of one's future profession, high motivation for professional work (<i>partial development</i>)	OK-8	-professional ethics problems are reflected in the text of the final written work -social problems are reflected in the final written work -demonstrates the knowledge of history of social research	Lectures, preparation, and essay writing
Ability to analyze socially important problems and processes (<i>partial development</i>)	OK-10	-connects socially important problems with sociological terms, categories, theoretical approaches	Lectures, preparation, and essay writing
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	-gives definitions of key sociological terms, categories -names major sociological theories, models, approaches -illustrates the main points of sociological theories and methodologies -analyzes social events, connecting the analysis with the contents of the “Sociological theory” (section “General Sociology) course	Lectures, preparation, and essay writing
Ability to independently formulate goals, set specific tasks for academic	PK-2	-formulates the goals of one's research based on the topics	Lectures, preparation, and

research in various areas of sociology
(*partial development*)

introduced by master-class
lecturers (reflected in the
written work [essay])
-selects the newest Russian and
foreign sources on the given
subject for the essay

essay writing

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

This discipline is part of the “Professional cycle” discipline cycle’s elective component. The study of this discipline is based on the following prerequisite disciplines:

-Sociological Theory, from the “General Sociology” department

In order to study this discipline, the students must possess the following skills and competencies:

- Be able to study and gain new professional knowledge
- Be able to explain the necessity to keep to legal and ethical norms in professional work
- To know, be able to explain and illustrate the major terms and categories of sociology

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

Sociological theory

Topic plan for the academic discipline

№	Name of section	Total hours	Lecture Hours	Seminar Hours	Self-Study Hours
1	Person-society-world in the eyes of a sociologist (Master-class by Yadov V.A.)	4	2		2
2	Sociologist in today's multifaceted ethnocultural world (Master-class by Drobizheva L.M.)	4	2		2
3	Sociologist as anthropologist: “Other” cultures as research focus (Master-class by Yarskaya-Smirnova E.R)	4	2		2
4	Sociologist's public position and fundamental research (Master-class by Pokrovsky N.E.)	4	2		2
5	Sociologist's profession, professionalism and worldview (Master-class by Gofman A.B.)	4	2		2
6	Professional sociologist-referent: working in an academic research institute (Master-class by Simonova O.A.)	4	2		2
7	Sociological imagination as a way of addressing the social meanings of objects (Master-class by Ikonnikova N.K.)	4	2		2

8	The city as an open book for sociological analysis (Master-class by Nikolaev V.G.)	4	2	2
9	How and why do sociologists study enterprise? (Master-class by Chepurensko A.Y.)	4	2	2
Total		36	18	18

Forms of student scholastic attainment control

Type of control	Form of control	1 year	Parameters
In progress (weekly)	Attendance sheet	1	Lecture/master-class attendance
Final	Final Examination	1	Written take-home work based on the lectures/master-classes: essay, 1 thousand words, A4 paper size, Times Font, font size 12, 1.5 line spacing, all margins – 2.5 cm. Essay components such as the title sheet and bibliography are not included in the overall essay page count

1.1 Criteria for grading of skills and scholastic attainment

Students will be assessed over the duration of the course through the attendance sheet circulated in the lectures/master-classes.

The final control, an essay, will be in the form of a written take-home essay, one thousand words in length.

Criteria for grading the essay: 1) Adherence to the required structure and format (including the presence of a title sheet, referencing/quotations, text format); 2) clarity of the problem's statement along with emphasized and developed key sociological terms/notions relevant to the chosen topic; 3) Sociological sources (theoretical, statistical, other) relevant to the chosen topic are cited and appropriately used; 4) The author makes well-argued points to inform his/her independent conclusions.

The grade is based on the ten-point scale.

A passing grade for the course is based on the timely submission of written work (i.e., the essay). In progress control forms are also considered when calculating the final grade.

Discipline contents.

Person-society-world in the eyes of a sociologist. Lecture. 2 hours.

Profession of sociologist in modern Russia. Formation of sociological culture in soviet and post-soviet Russia. Sociology of identity. Directions of sociological research.

Sociologist in today's multifaceted ethnocultural world. 2 hours.

The importance of ethnosocial problems in modern society is discussed. The value of ethnocultural particulars in processes of modernization. Which old and new inequalities differentiate the ethnosocial space. Possibilities of preventing xenophobia and ethnoconfessional extremism. How nationalism is transformed under the conditions of globalization. Do civil and ethnic identity contradict or complement each other?

Sociologist as anthropologist: "Other" cultures as research focus. 2 hours.

Sociologists as anthropologists: classics and contemporaries. The role of anthropology in the development of sociological imagination. "To make the familiar unknown." "The kaleidoscope of various forms of social life." Anthropological methods and topics as subject of interest to sociologists. Cultural differences and universalities. Symbols and semiotics. Rituals and material artifacts. Micro-level of analysis. Anthropology of modern society: city, industrial, organizational, medical, anthropology of occupations and professions, gender relations, education. The other, the outsider, the wanderer. Risks and limitations in "other" culture research. The power of classification. Problems in academic and applied ethics.

Sociologist's public position and fundamental research. 2 hours.

Sociology as science. Academic and non-academic worldview. Science, ideology, politics, religion and their relationship to sociology. Social processes and institutes analytics. The profession of sociologists in Russia and other countries today. Personal traits of a specialist that are necessary in the profession of sociologist. Sociologists in education (university), business, politics, government employment.

Sociologist's profession, professionalism and worldview. 2 hours.

Professionalism in science and other fields. On academic truths in sociology: useful, not useful, and harmful. Can one work in a scientific field without a scientific worldview? Sociological worldview. The sociologist's profession and the sociologist's professionalism. Sociology as science and as practice.

Professional sociologist-referent: working in an academic research institute. 2 hours.

Reports on foreign articles and books on sociology is one of the skills of a professional sociologist and requires meticulous preparation. Aside from this, the standards of writing such reports must be include the usage of one's knowledge of sociological theory. What are the purposes of such reports. What kinds of reports are there. Bibliographical skills when writing a report. Translating sociological terms into Russian. Working in an academic research institute in one's professional capacity.

Sociological imagination as a way of addressing the social meanings of objects. 2 hours.

Objects are included in social interactions, allowing for acquisition and demonstration of social status, as well as including the individual into certain communities, chains and exchange networks through objects and communications on their significance. "Objects are a way to determine who we are for ourselves and for others." At the same time, objects are a part of the socio-cultural process of design and inheritance of our surrounding environment – ameliorated and transformed, even if it

designated as “natural.” At first people produce a certain world through symbolic actions (including work), and then inhabit and master the world that they have created.

Sociological imagination is a research procedure that allows one to “look behind the facade,” “see through the outer shell of things,” assume, which social meanings and relationships are “packaged” through objects. Sociological imagination is necessary because natural direct perception is limited by the physical and chemical aspects of objects, whereas the ethnographic description (which has a long-standing research tradition) fixates on the outer multiplicity and symbolic nature of objects, needing the imagination to understand social relationships which include these objects.

The city as an open book for sociological analysis. 2 hours.

A city, especially a big city, is the center of all modern forms of sociality and, consequentially, an ideal place to conduct sociological research. Everything that characterizes modern society, is in some form present in a city and its inhabitants: demographic processes, social transformations, meetings and culture melting pot, political configurations, generation conflicts, gender issues, marginality, criminality, deviant behavior, suicides, division of labor and profession, scientific discovery, technological advances, modern forms of consumption, social inequality, ethnic and racial conflicts, and so on, and so forth. All possible types of individuals and human behavior are found in cities. Proportionally to how the world becomes more or less urbanized, sociologists who conduct research in cities acquire knowledge that is useful for explaining structures and processes of modern society and society overall.

How and why do sociologists study enterprise?

Enterprise as a specific form of economic behavior. Enterprise in economic theory and in sociology. Topics studied by sociology of enterprise. Examples of major research of enterprise.

Educational technologies.

Educational technologies that aid student interaction (polylogistic) in lectures courses will be used (since the academic plan does not include seminars, discussions are included in the context of lectures/master-classes).

Grading means of student progress and overall student assessment.

1.2 Topics of assignments for in-progress control

Students pick one of the topics corresponding to one lecture/one master-class.

Section 1:

Topic 1:

Section 2:

Topic 2: Is civil identity in Russia possible without ethnic identity?

Topic 3: Globalization and nationalism – contradiction or supplement?

Section 3:

Topic 4: The “I/Other” relationship in sociological research.

Topic 5: In what cases and for what would a sociologist need the skills and knowledge of an anthropologist?

Section 4:

Topic 6: Conflict and consensus in sociology as a working enterprise.

Section 5:

Topic 7: What does sociology have in common with natural sciences?

Topic 8: Sociology and the sociologist's worldview.

Section 6:

Topic 9: Particularities of socio-historical knowledge and socio-historical facts in studying modern society

Topic 10: Between Scylla and Charybdis: sociologist in the public space (based on sociologists' publications and mass media).

Section 7:

Topic 11: Objects of material culture as an expression of social belonging and demonstration of individuality: the correlation of these aspects for various social groups (including fences, barriers, doors and doorways...)

Topic 12: Symbolic meaning of "natural" objects in modern cultures (including ecological motives in the behavior of consumers and members of social interactions).

Section 8.

Topic 13: Problems of loneliness and solitude in cities

Topic 14: Social distance in cities

Section 9:

Topic 15: "I'd be an entrepreneur, can they teach me? What, why and where are entrepreneurs taught?"

Topic 16: The Entrepreneur and the businessman: similarities and differences?

Topic 17: If you want to lose a friend, start a business with him: why and how are enterprise teams created?

1.3 Questions for assessing discipline attainment.

Questions are formed based on written student work (essays). In this case, the student defends his written work (essay) directly during the final.

1.4 Examples of assignments for final control.

Final control/assessment is made based on the following, in the written work (essay).

The essay text must conform to the following requirements:

1. Format requirements:

The work must have a title page, and a works cited/bibliography.

The work must be in Times New Roman font, size 12, with a 1.5 line interval. It must also be 1000 words in length.

2. Content requirements.

a) the problem definition and its sociological content are assessed,

b) key sociological terms relating to the topic must be emphasized and explained/developed,

c) sources corresponding to the topic must be cited and correctly used,

d) the writer's arguments and conclusions must be included and they must make up the

major part of the text (the text should not be overloaded with quotations and abstracts from other sources).

Discipline grading.

The instructor takes student attendance at lectures/master-classes. This constitutes a grade for attendance, given on a ten-point scale. (G-lecture)

The instructor grades student independent work (i.e., the essay) based upon the full extent of familiarity with the required and suggested literature, and the quality of complete practice assignments. Grades for student independent work are entered by the instructor into the academic record. The cumulative grade (10 point scale) for independent work is determined by the instructor prior to the final examination. (G-essay)

The cumulative grade for in-progress work is calculated as follows:

$$G\text{-progress} = n_1 \times G\text{-essay} + n_2 \times G\text{-lecture}$$

In-progress grade in the course is calculated as follows:

$$G\text{-progress} = 0.8 \times G\text{-essay} + 0.2 \times G\text{-lecture}$$

The resulting final grade is given based on the progress grade during finals:

$$G\text{-final} = G\text{-progress}$$

The grades will be rounded to the nearest full grade.

Materials and technical supplies for the discipline.

Necessary items: projector, personal computer (notebook), blackboard/whiteboard and markers.