

## Course content

The course encompasses three themes – culture, politics and participation – and seeks to carve out different relations between them. It gives an introduction to selected theories and empirical research areas belonging to the sociology of culture, while centering on questions regarding politics and participation in relation to cultural life in general and youth culture in particular.

The course plan is divided in three clusters, each of which is meant to enter the matrix of culture, politics and participation from a different perspective.

1. It investigates the very concept of culture and the different ways it has been theorized and defined. What is culture in the first place? Is it meaning, signs and symbols? Art or "high" culture? Forms of language and communication? Does it include the everyday? The body?

2. It investigates politics and political potential in relation to subculture, in play- or leisure cultures, in popular culture and art, in charismatic political leadership and related to communication, symbols and signs, clothing styles and new media. How is Facebook used politically? How to understand the political in relation to youth subcultures? Has contemporary youth become depoliticized? Should a sociology of culture always be "critical" and "political" – and in which sense? Does political potential hide in every day hobbies or leisure activities? Or is it only art – contrary to popular culture or "cultural industrial" forms – which carries an emancipative potential?

3. It investigates the aspect of participation as an important component in its own right. What does it really mean to have the feeling of participating in something – together with others? What role does the collective aspect play in cultural phenomena? How to understand affective and bodily forms of participation such as rave or club culture or ritual participation? How to understand the relation between collectivity and politics?

The course will be taught in English.

## Learning outcome

## **Knowledge**

The student will gain:

- a detailed knowledge of some of the main theories and empirical themes belonging to the sociology of culture.
- a sociologically informed understanding of important modern cultural institutions, phenomena or themes such as media, current trends in popular culture and leisure, youth culture and art.
- important theoretical and conceptual tools to understand and theorize collective and participatory aspects to cultural phenomena.
- important theoretical and conceptual tools to understand and theorize political aspects to cultural phenomena.

## **Skills**

The student will learn:

- to creatively theorize and analyze cultural phenomena
- to creatively analyze culturally social phenomena
- to understand and reflect on theoretical choices and their conceptual and methodological consequences on the field of the sociology of culture

## **General competence**

The student will gain:

- increased reflexivity and sensibility as to the social and sociological meaning of culture and cultural phenomena
- increased reflexivity and sensibility for political aspects to cultural phenomena.
- increased reflexivity and sensibility for collective and participatory aspects to cultural phenomena.

The course will provide the student with competences, tools and knowledge indispensable for an eventual carrier in the cultural sector, public or private, in event

design, organization or management, or in youth education or youth research. In addition, the capacity to analyze and understand modern culture and current cultural tendencies may be of use in a number of possible future occupations.

## Admission

Students who are admitted to study programmes at UiO must each semester register which courses and exams they wish to sign up for [in Studentweb](#).

If you are not already enrolled as a student at UiO, please see our information about [admission requirements and procedures](#).

This course is not available for single course students.

This course is a part of the Master's programme in Sociology. The course is also open for master's students on Lektorprogrammet and Organisasjon, ledelse og arbeid at UiO.

Students enrolled in other Master's Degree Programmes can, on application, be admitted to the course as [guest student](#) if this is cleared by their own study programme. Admission as a guest student will vary from semester to semester, as guest students will be allotted any vacant seats on the course.

## Teaching

- The course will be organized as 12 seminars including lectures and discussions two-three times a week.
- The lectures are given in English.
- In relation to the semester paper, each student is offered one hour individual counselling (including counselling and preparation).

## Examination

- Short term paper
- 1-hour written school exam

Assessment is based on a short term paper (4000 Words) and a written school exam. The short term paper counts 2/3 of the final grade whilst the written school exam counts 1/3.

Both term paper and written school exam must be passed the same semester in order to receive a valid final grade.

- [Guidelines for the term paper](#)
- [An introduction to writing of assignments in sociology](#)
- [Previous exams](#)

## Written examination

The written examination is conducted in the digital examination system Inspera. [Read more about written examinations using Inspera.](#)

You will need to familiarize yourself with the digital examination arrangements in Inspera. [Read more about training in Inspera.](#)

## Submit assignments in Inspera

You submit your assignment in the digital examination system Inspera. [Read more about how to submit assignments in Inspera.](#)

## Use of sources and citation

You should familiarize yourself with the rules that apply to [the use of sources and citations](#). If you violate the rules, you may be suspected of [cheating/attempted cheating](#).

## Examination support material

Students may use dictionaries at this exam. Dictionaries must be handed in before the examination. Please read [regulations for dictionaries permitted at the examination](#).

## Language of examination

The examination text is given in English. You may submit your response in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

## Grading scale

Grades are awarded on a scale from A to F, where A is the best grade and F is a fail. Read more about [the grading system](#).

## Explanations and appeals

It is recommended to request an explanation of your grade before you decide to appeal.

### Appeal

- [Appeal against grades](#)
- [Complaint about formal exam errors](#)

### Explanation

The deadline to request an explanation is one week after the grade is published. For oral and practical examinations, the deadline is immediately after you have received your grade.

The explanation should normally be given within two weeks after you have asked for it. The examiner decides whether the explanation is to be given in writing or verbally.

Ask for explanation of your grade in this course:

- [school exam](#)
- [term paper](#)

## Resit an examination

If you are sick or have another valid reason for not attending the regular exam, we offer a [postponed exam](#) later in the same semester.

See also our information about [resitting an exam](#).

## Withdrawal from an examination

If you wish to withdraw from the exam you must do so in Studentweb at least two weeks [prior to the deadline](#). Failure to do so will be counted as an examination attempt.

## Special examination arrangements

Application form, deadline and requirements for [special examination arrangements](#).

## Evaluation

The course is subject to continuous evaluation. At regular intervals we also ask students to participate in a more comprehensive evaluation.