

The Sociology of Small Groups & Subcultures

Course content

We experience the most significant moments of our lives in small groups and subcultures: families, sports teams, romantic partners, working groups, friendship groups, musical subcultures, sports subcultures, and political subcultures are just a few examples. Groups and subcultures shape our thoughts, identities, and actions. They also contribute to large-scale social change and social stability. This course introduces students to the microsociology of small groups and subcultures and reviews the sociological theories and research methods used to understand them. Students will come to understand how small groups and subcultures structure social life, and how small groups and subcultures affect their own lives and behaviors.

Learning outcomes

- Understand central terms and concepts within the sociology of small groups and subcultures
- Understand important sociological theories of small groups and subcultures
- Knowledge of sociological research methods for investigating small groups and subcultures
- Understand how small groups and subcultures form and change over time
- Knowledge of key social aspects of group and subcultures such as norms, social structures, leadership, conformity, power, inequality, conflict, and cooperation
- Understand the different social roles that exist in small groups and subcultures
- Understand how small groups and subcultures affect identity, deviance, emotions, and creativity

Skills

- Ability to theorize about small groups and subcultures
- Experience observing and studying small groups and subcultures
- Facility in analyzing and synthesizing information, problem solving, and thinking creatively and critically
- Ability to apply understanding of small group and subcultural processes to everyday life
- Enhanced critical discussion skills
- Enhanced ability to deliver oral presentations in a group setting

General competence

- Awareness of the significance of small groups and subcultures for social life and individual biographies, and understanding of the complex interplay between micro and macro forms of social interaction.

Admission

XXX

Teaching

- Lectures
- In-class discussions

Grading

There will be one obligatory assignment early in the course, and one obligatory group assignment later in the course. Both have to be accepted. Details and deadlines will be given in Canvas.

Final exam

Grades range from A to F, where A is the best grade and F is failing.

Examination

- This course has a supervised 4-hour, in-class written exam. The examination is given in English. Responses may be submitted in Norwegian or English.

Credits

10

Level

Bachelor

Teaching

Fall 2021

Examination

Fall 2021

Teaching language

English

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