University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Ethical challenges of sociology - auditorium classes, PG_00176574		
Field of study	Sociology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Sociological Theory and Social Research Methodology -> Institute of Sociology -> Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Wojciech Zieliński	
	Teachers		

Lesson types							
	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours					
	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	0.0	20.0	50

Subject objectives	Developing the skills of: (a) understanding the axiological problems of contemporary science and its social functions, (b) recognizing the ethical problems of the profession, (c) understanding the social responsibility of a sociologist-researcher and analyst, (d) recognizing ethical issues resolved based on the axiological consensus of the profession.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[SOCL3_K06] The graduate is ready to supplement and refine the acquired knowledge and skills	The student has the ability to continuously improve his knowledge and skills in the field of social research ethics in order to improve the quality of conducted research.	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[SOCL3_K04] The graduate is ready to recognise and accurately resolve dilemmas related to his/her profession	The student is ready to accurately recognize and resolve ethical dilemmas in a professional context, including conflicts of interest and data manipulation.	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[SOCL3_K03] The graduate is ready to appropriately determine priorities in the implementation of a specific task	The student is ready to determine ethical priorities when implementing research projects, taking into account the principles of neutrality and involvement.	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[SOCL3_W07] The graduate has an advanced knowledge about the ethical and moral norms of social life as well as legal and organisational norms regulating social life, is familiar with the processes of their introduction and changes	The graduate has an advanced knowledge about the ethical and moral norms of social life as well as legal and organisational norms regulating social life, is familiar with the processes of their introduction and changes.	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[SOCL3_U05] The graduate is able to apply legal, professional and ethical norms and rules when solving a specific task in the field of sociology	The student is able to apply knowledge of ethical, legal and moral standards to solve specific problems in the professional work of a sociologist.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[SOCL3_K07] The graduate is ready to think and act in an entrepreneurial manner	The student is able to think and act in an entrepreneurial way, taking into account the ethical consequences of undertaken research activities.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[SOCL3_U07] The graduate is able to analyse proposed solutions to a specific problem in sociology and decide on appropriate solutions	The student is able to assess the ethical aspects of proposed solutions to research problems, including the impact of research on society and individuals.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[SOCL3_U06] The graduate is able to use the acquired sociological knowledge to resolve dilemmas arising in professional work	The student is prepared to make ethical decisions in the context of various roles of a sociologist, taking into account the principles of scientific responsibility.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion

Subject contents	The concept and issues of ethics Values in life and learning Science as an unnecessary product Moral subjectivity of the researcher The credo of critical rationalism The multiplicity of roles of a sociologist Postulates of scientific responsibility Ethical aspects of social research Codes of professional ethics Political aspects of social research The temptations of social engineering Neutrality and commitment in sociology Through knowledge towards wisdom of action
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Promotion to the second semester of studies.
Assessment methods and criteria	

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Conscious and active participation in classes, discussion of the selected reading.	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Earl R. Babbie, The Practice of Social Research Norbert Elias, Commitment and neutrality Jacek Hołówka, Ethics in Action C. Wright Mills, The Sociological Imagination Stefan Nowak, Methodology of Social Research Maria Ossowska, Moral Norms: An Attempt at Systematization Stanisław Ossowski, On the Peculiarities of the Social Sciences Karl R. Popper, The Poverty of Historicism Florian Znaniecki, The Social Role of the Man of Knowledge

	Supplementary literature	Earl R. Babbie, The Basics of Social Research Richard B. Brandt, Ethics: Issues in Normative Ethics and Metaethics Aniela Dylus, Ethical Issues of Science According to Representatives of the Lwów-Warsaw School Ryszard Dyoniziak, Polls and Manipulation of Society Ethical Aspects of Social Research, edited by K. Zamiara Professional Ethics of Scientists, edited by J. Goćkowski, K. Pigoń Sławomir Kapralski, Values and Sociological Knowledge Wiesław Wątroba, Sociology and Fallibilism Wojciech Zieliński, The Status of Ethics in Postmodern Culture: An Analysis of Zygmunt Bauman's Propositions
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Should you obey authority figures? Are knowledge and morality mutually exclusive? Can morality be shaped by law? Why is it difficult to reach consensus among sociologists on which research problems should be considered priority?	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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