

Subject card

Subject name and code	The sociology of law in democracy - lecture, PG_00176602						
Field of study	Sociology						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject			2026/2027	
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			exam	
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 hab. Michał Kaczmarczyk				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	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	The goal of the course "Sociology of Law in Democracy" is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between legal systems and democratic societies. Students will explore how laws shape and are shaped by social structures, behaviors, and institutions. The course aims to develop critical thinking skills, enabling students to analyze the role of law in protecting rights, promoting justice, and addressing social inequalities.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[SOCL3_U03] The graduate is able to analyse the causes and course of social processes and phenomena	Evaluation of Legal Reforms: The student can evaluate the impact of legal reforms on society, considering both intended and unintended consequences.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_U02] The graduate is able to use theoretical knowledge from different streams of sociology and acquire data to analyse specific social processes and phenomena	Communication of Legal and Sociological Knowledge: The student can effectively communicate complex legal and sociological concepts in both written and oral forms, suitable for academic and professional audiences.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_U01] The graduate is able to interpret social phenomena using sociological concepts and sociological imagination	Application of Sociological Theories to Legal Issues: The student can apply sociological theories to understand and address legal issues, highlighting the role of law in social change and stability.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_W01] The graduate has advanced knowledge about the nature of social sciences, their place in the system of sciences and relations to other sciences and common knowledge, he/she can determine the specificity of sociology as a science in relation to its history, functions, subject and tasks, he/she can distinguish thematic areas of sociology common with other disciplines of social sciences and he/she knows different theoretical and methodological approaches in sociology	Examination of Legal Processes and Institutions: The student examines the roles, functions, and interactions of legal processes and institutions within democratic societies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_W10] The graduate knows and understands concepts and principles of industrial property protection and copyright law	Analysis of Law and Social Inequality: The student can analyze how laws and legal systems contribute to or mitigate social inequalities, focusing on issues such as race, gender, and class.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_W02] The graduate has advanced knowledge about different types of social structures and institutions such as the state, nation, classes and social strata, ethnic group, local community, social group, family, political party, enterprise, she/he knows the differences in the functioning principles of social, public and commercial organisations	Critical Analysis of Legal Systems: The student can critically analyze different legal systems, comparing their structures, functions, and impacts within democratic contexts.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SOCL3_W03] The graduate knows and understands in an advanced way the relationships between the relationship between micro and macro social structures and institutions, on a national and international scale in the fields of private life, work, politics, civil society, etc	Knowledge of Legal Theories and Concepts: The student has a comprehensive understanding of key legal theories and concepts, particularly those relevant to democratic societies.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[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	Understanding the Role of Law in Protecting Rights: The student understands the role of law in protecting human rights and ensuring justice in democratic societies, and can critically assess the effectiveness of legal frameworks.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents	The Concept of Law		
	Pre-State Law and State Law		
	Functions of Law		
	Legitimization of Law		
	Emergence and Functions of the State		
	Law and Ideology		
	Social Action of Law		
	Quantity and Quality of Legal Control		
	Sociological Theories of Crime		
	Sociology of Civil Law		
	Models of Democracy		
	Civil Disobedience and Conscientious Objection		
	The Role of the Judge		
	The Future of Law and Democracy		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Promotion to the second semester of studies.In order to pass the lecture, the student must first pass the classes.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Test exam	51.0%	100.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Cotterell, Roger. <i>The Sociology of Law: An Introduction, Oxford University Press 1992..</i>	
	Supplementary literature	Kaczmarczyk Michał, Nieposłuszeństwo obywatelskie a pojęcie prawa, Oficyna Naukowa 2010.	
		Kaczmarczyk Michał, Wstęp do socjologicznej teorii własności, Oficyna Naukowa 2006.	
		Winczorek Jan, Dostęp do prawa, Scholar 2020.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Provide the systems for calculating the number of seats in the Sejm elections		
	List the criteria for civil disobedience		
	List the functions of law		
	List the factors of the effectiveness of law		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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