Courses Taught in English at the Department of Sociology (LMU) in the Winter Semester 2026/27

Bachelor's Level:

Module Title	Title	Course Description	Teacher	ECTS	Additional
Seminar "Applied Sociology"	Labor market discrimination	The allocation of individuals within the labor market—and related outcomes such as occupational prestige and income—plays a central role in shaping individual life chances as well as broader patterns of efficiency and equality in society. Yet inequalities linked to personal characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, and class or social status continue to structure labor market outcomes. To what extent these disparities reflect discriminatory practices by recruiters, HR managers, or employers—and through which mechanisms such discrimination operates—remains an ongoing and actively debated question. This seminar provides an in-depth examination of discrimination in the labor market. It begins by introducing key definitions of discrimination and identifying the individual characteristics most commonly associated with discriminatory behavior, with a particular focus on gender, ethnicity, and class or status. The course then explores the different mechanisms through which discrimination operates, as well as the range of methods used to detect and measure it. Special attention is devoted to experimental research. By the end of the seminar, participants will have developed a solid understanding of the main theoretical approaches to the study of discrimination—especially in labor market contexts—as well as familiarity with current empirical research in	Zamberlan	9	

		sociology, complemented by insights from psychology and economics. The seminar combines theoretical perspectives with empirical evidence in a highly interactive learning environment. Students are encouraged and supported in developing their own research ideas, which they will expand into an independent research project. A basic background in quantitative methods of empirical social research is recommended; more advanced methods will be introduced and discussed during the seminar. A good command of English is required to engage with the readings and actively participate in class discussions.			
Seminar “Applied Sociology”	Gender inequalities over the life course	Gender inequalities persist across many areas of society and throughout individuals' lives. They shape processes of primary socialization, educational choices, employment trajectories, income and wealth, family dynamics, and aging. Key life course events—such as marriage and childbearing—are closely intertwined with social inequalities, particularly those structured by gender. This seminar offers an in-depth study of gender inequalities by tracing individuals' life trajectories from early socialization through old age. The course explores how inequalities across different life domains are interconnected and whether they generate cumulative advantages or disadvantages for specific social groups. By the end of the seminar, participants will have a solid understanding of the life course approach and of how gender inequalities emerge and change over time. Students will also become familiar with the current state of quantitative empirical research in sociology on these topics. The seminar combines theoretical perspectives with empirical evidence in a highly interactive learning environment. Students are encouraged and supported in developing their own research ideas, which they will expand into an independent research	Zamberlan	9	

		project. A basic background in quantitative methods of empirical social research is recommended; more advanced methods will be introduced and discussed during the seminar. A good command of English is required to engage with the readings and actively participate in class discussions.			
Seminar "Sociological Immersion II"	Gender at Work: From Pay Gaps to Job Advertisements	This course examines gender inequalities in the labour market. We will begin by taking stock of gender inequalities in the labour market, discussing, for example, labour market participation, occupational segregation, and the so-called glass ceiling. This includes incorporating an intersectional lens. In a second step, we will explore different mechanisms that explain these inequalities, such as discrimination, preferences, and cultural beliefs about gender. Finally, we will examine how language shapes labour market outcomes, focusing in particular on language in job advertisements. Over the course of the seminar, you will learn about different theories and learn to evaluate competing explanations. We will read empirical papers with a range of research designs and methodologies, including experiments, survey data, text-as-data, and qualitative interviews. This allows you to develop your skills in interpreting empirical evidence and to reflect on how different questions can be answered with different data. The course will be taught as a block seminar consisting of an introductory online session followed by two two-day in-person blocks.	Waldendorf	9	Block course
Quantitative Research Practicum	Research Practicum in Computational Social Sciences	In this course, students will build on their knowledge of empirical social science research by designing and conducting their own research project. The course covers all key stages of the research process, from formulating a research question and planning measurement instruments to collecting, processing, and analyzing data, with a strong emphasis on methodological principles.	Topinková	9	

		Unlike traditional research practicums that focus on survey-based approaches, this version introduces students to methods from the field of Computational Social Science (CSS), and to the programming language R. Please note that although the course is taught in English, language proficiency will not affect assessment. Students are therefore encouraged to use the course as an opportunity to further develop their English speaking and writing skills.			
Seminar “Applied Sociology”	Applied Data Visualization	Data visualization is a crucial tool in the data-driven world, serving as a bridge between increasingly complex information and human understanding. This course provides students with an advanced understanding of the theoretical foundations and practical applications of data visualization. The course will address data visualization's dos and don'ts, including avoiding, identifying, and fixing data misrepresentations. Through practical exercises using the programming language R, students will learn to select, design, and implement static and interactive visualizations, making informed choices about which aspects of the data to emphasize, how to reduce unnecessary visual complexity, and which visualization techniques are most appropriate for different communication goals. Students will also learn to adapt their design choices to communicate insights effectively to academic, professional, and lay audiences. The overarching goal is to equip students with the skills to transform social data into clear, meaningful visualizations by selecting the most appropriate visual representation for the intended audience, communication objective, and medium. Students will develop the ability to communicate data effectively across a range of media, including reports, presentations, dashboards, and digital platforms. The course includes practical applications in R programming language. While a prior experience with R is an advantage, it is	Topinková	9	

		not a requirement. The class is also suitable for students who are considering starting with R programming language. Please note that although this course is conducted in English, language proficiency will have no influence on performance records.			
Seminar "Sociological Immersion II"	The Sociology of Migrant and Refugee Health	The seminar introduces students to the relationship between social structures, e.g., citizenship inequalities, and the production and distribution of health, illness and disease among migrant groups. The seminar's sociological perspective focuses on how identity markers such as citizenship status, 'race'/ethnicity, gender - and their various intersections – are implicated in patterns of health service utilisation and health outcomes among various migrant groups. The sociological importance of these issues is reflected, for example, in empirical data showing the increased risk of Covid-19 infection and severe health consequences for migrants during the recent pandemic. These findings highlight the impact of enduring structural inequities and social determinants of health to which migrants are exposed. Through selected readings, group discussions and oral presentations students will explore migrants' and refugees' experiences of accessing healthcare, as well as the diverse social and cultural factors mediating their health-related beliefs and behaviours. The main objectives of the seminar are: - To introduce core elements constituting the sociological perspective. - To highlight how inequalities in citizenship status are implicated in access to healthcare and health-related experiences among various migrant groups. - To create an understanding of the relationship between migration/integration polices and migrants' health status and experience of healthcare.	Scott	9	Online block course

Exercise course "Special Sociological Theories"	Inequality and Real Utopias	In this course, we examine central dimensions of social inequality, following a sociological approach that focuses on the possibilities for emancipatory social change. The course centers on the framework of Real Utopias developed by Erik Olin Wright, which analyzes how concrete alternatives to existing social structures may contribute to reducing social inequality and improving human flourishing. The course is characterized by active and participatory teaching and learning methods. In addition to individual and group work, it includes a project-based assignment and a simulation game that enable students to apply theoretical insights to concrete cases. The class language is English. English proficiency is not a grading criterion, and the course explicitly welcomes students who wish to practice and further develop their English skills in an academic context. The final assessment consists of a term paper, which may be written in either German or English. The course takes place at ISI Munich, Ohmstr. 8.	Radau	6	Block course
Exercise course “Sociological Immersion I"	Critical Housing Studies	What makes research „critical“, and how does it differ from other forms of research? This course starts there, then moves into the topics of critical housing studies in Germany: the „new housing question“, gentrification, or housing policy, among others. Sessions are built around active learning and use a range of teaching and learning methods. The course is taught in English; language performance isn't assessed, so it's a good opportunity to practise English skills. The course takes place at ISI Munich, Ohmstr. 8.	Radau	6	Block course

Exercise course “Sociological Immersion I"	All you need is love? Sociological perspectives on love	Discourses around romantic love and intimacy shape our everyday lives, from everyday interactions to popular culture to the ways we consume. Capitalism shapes even the most intimate aspects of our lives, including our desires and how we care for one another. In this course, we will analyze love as a sociological concept while placing it in the context of capitalism. We will look at the “transformation of intimacy” (Giddens) and the “normal chaos of love” (Beck and Beck-Gernsheim), while addressing questions such as “Why Love Hurts” (Illouz) and “Why Love Ends” (Illouz). In this course, we will “talk of love” (Swidler) and consider why it is “all about love” (hooks). Through this, we will trace the concept of love historically, examine the commercialization of desire, analyze the market forces that shape love and care, and finally ask whether love can also be understood as a political practice.	Kerk	6	Block course
Exercise course "Language instruction"	English in the Social Sciences*	In this course we will be exploring diverse text-based and audio visual sociological materials on the internet as well as in traditional resources while looking at how English is being used by and for sociologists internationally. Online discussions, collaborative activities and presentations provide you with opportunities to develop your spoken English for academic purposes, for international communication and for broadening your general and specialist vocabulary. Key learning aims • Working on English for academic purposes • Developing critical reading skills for English-language print media and digital materials from sociological websites to academic articles • Practising the presentation of opinions, arguments and data • Developing awareness of the use of English in international academic settings • Academic and Sociology-specific vocabulary building	Westin	6	

		Key topics • English for sociological research • Globalisation issues • Culture and identity • Popular culture, global culture, mass culture • Communication and society • Work, family and gender			

Master's Level (only available for master's students):

Module Title	Title	Course Description	Teacher	ECTS	Additional
Master's seminar	Growth and Limits	Whether we look at Thomas Robert Malthus, "peak oil" or the planetary boundaries discussed today (Rockström et al. 2009): "Limits to growth" are proclaimed and then dismissed so frequently that political scientist Andrew Dobson refers to a new iteration of the debate as "groundhog day" (Kallis 2019). This seminar aims to explore some of the core arguments in this multifaceted debate. What institutional pressures and dynamics of economic growth exist in our society? Why does consumption increase even when we have all we need? Are there limits to growth – ecological as well as social? How are limits constructed and shifted?	Bauer	9	

		We will also consider how individuals, institutions and societies (could) impose limits on themselves, for example through limitarianism (Robeyns 2023), degrowth, individual sufficiency, or collectively negotiated consumption corridors.			
Master's seminar	Sociology of Hope	The course explores different approaches to and perspectives on the sociology of hope, moving from classical sociological traditions to more recent queer, feminist, and decolonial understandings of hope's spatial and temporal dimensions. It examines hope in relation to other emotions (fear/uncertainty) and key concepts such as utopia, optimism/pessimism, revolution, crisis, futurity, and social transformation. Rather than treating hope as an individual emotion or psychological disposition, the course approaches hope as a socially constructed, situated affect, and collectively produces orientation towards the future. It asks how hope is produced, organized, embodies, and contested. Hope will be examined both as a form of domination and as a possible source of liberation, allowing students to engage with contrasting analytical perspective on its social and political significance. Each seminar will focus on a specific author, theoretical tradition, or perspective, enabling students to develop a critical understanding of hope as a sociological object of inquiry. Discussions and work in class will be conducted in English, though some readings may also be in German.	Pereyra	9	

*This course is not suitable for English native speakers.