Courses Taught in English at the Department of Sociology (LMU) in the Summer Semester 2026

Bachelor's Level:

Module Title	Title	Course Description	Teacher	ECTS	Additional
Exercise course "Applied qualitative methods"	Qualitative Interviews on Digital Intimacy	In this qualitative research course ("Methodenübung"), participants will learn to conduct qualitative interviews and practically apply those skills in their own research project on digital intimacy. Throughout the last decade, technological advances in the digital realm have accelerated and rendered digital technologies ubiquitous. The internet, smartphones, and social media are now part of everyday life and have thus become essential to the inquiries of sociologists. It seems increasingly difficult to separate 'analogue' life from the social life that takes place in virtual spaces. These developments also influence the ways we experience intimacy, romance, sexuality, and friendship. In fact, many intimate encounters, practices, and relationships have shifted into digitally mediated spaces. In this course, students will explore these themes through their own research projects. Participants will work in small groups on their own research project and independently collect qualitative data through interviews on a topic related to digital intimacy. The final assessment will be a research report in which each group presents the results of their project. Through this course, students will gain practical experience in conducting qualitative interviews. In addition, they will critically analyse the changing nature of intimacy, digital culture, and its implications. The focus lies on the methodological process and the reflection thereof.	Kerk	6	
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.	Westin	6	

		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 Key topics • English for sociological research • Globalisation issues • Culture and identity • Popular culture, global culture, mass culture • Communication and society • Work, family and gender			
Exercise course "Sociological Immersion I"	Bodies, Risks and the Politics of Health	This seminar explores sociological perspectives on bodies, risk, and contemporary health policy. Building on key concepts from social theory, the course examines how health and risk are shaped by social, political, and cultural processes. The seminar engages with classic and contemporary approaches, including biopolitics (Foucault), risk society (Beck), and the sociology of health (Lupton), and discusses topics such as pandemics, digital health technologies, and public health communication. Questions of power, inequality, gender, and bodily governance are addressed throughout the course.	Simon	6	
Exercise course "Sociological Immersion I"	Limitarianism: The Case Against Extreme Wealth	In this reading course, we will read and discuss "Limitarianism: The Case Against Extreme Wealth" by Ingrid Robeyns. In her book, the philosopher examines questions such as "how much wealth is too much?" and whether wealth inequality undermines democracy. She also proposes an upper limit to personal wealth and develops a range of arguments in support of such a wealth cap, based on her theory of limitarianism. The course is designed as a close reading seminar. In each session, a specific section of the book will be read and discussed. Depending on the topic, the discussion will be complemented by insights from current research on wealth inequality.	Jalalian	6	

		Students are expected to acquire or borrow the book independently and to prepare the assigned readings in advance of each session.			
Exercise course "Sociological Immersion I"	Emotions and Social Control	This interdisciplinary course explores the intersection between emotions, power, and social control. Drawing on sociological, political, and psychosocial studies, it examines the ways emotions are defined, framed, and appropriated in social relations and context; the roles they play in the labour market and the governance of populations and certain groups. It explores the shaping of shame, fear, guilt, love, empathy, and happiness by institutions, corporate actors, and other social actors. The course also considers the rise of 'emotional intelligence' and asks why it has become so influential within contemporary management practices, workplace discipline, corporate culture and neoliberal forms of self-management. The course is led by student participation in group and individual exercises to learn about the ways to study emotions as they are depicted in texts, popular culture and social media, films, and everyday situations.	MailZada	6	
Exercise course "Sociological Immersion I"	Sociology of Wealth	This course offers an introduction to sociological wealth research. It is not (only) about the top 1% at the upper end of the wealth distribution, but also about the bottom 99%. Specifically, the following topics are covered: - Conceptual differences between wealth and income - Measurement of wealth - The Intergenerational persistence of wealth inequality - Wealth inequalities by gender, migration background/race, education, family structure, and on the labor market The course will have a quantitative focus. Less consideration will be given to classical theoretical approaches (e.g. Marx, theories of capitalism).	Jalalian	6	
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 social change. The course centers on the framework of Real Utopias developed by Erik Olin Wright, which analyzes how concrete institutional alternatives to existing social structures may contribute to reducing social inequality and improving social well-being. The course is characterized by active and participatory teaching and	Radau	6	Block course

		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.			
Exercise course "Special Sociological Theories"	Reading Course: A Short History of Equality	This reading course engages with "A Brief History of Equality" by Thomas Piketty, one of the most influential contemporary economists working on inequality. The book offers an accessible historical perspective on economic and social inequality and condenses the core arguments developed in Piketty's earlier work. It examines how global inequalities have evolved from the late 18th century to the present, with a focus on income, wealth, education, and political participation. It also explores contemporary debates about redistribution, democracy, and alternative economic systems without requiring prior knowledge in economics. Active participation in the course depends on consistent preparation. Each session builds directly on an assigned chapter, which needs to be read in advance. Students are required to acquire or borrow the book independently.	Rösler	6	
Seminar "Sociological Immersion II"	Gender and the Labour Market	This course introduces students to the ways in which gender operates in the labour market. It examines gendered patterns in labour market participation, occupational segregation, and experiences of discrimination. Both demand- and supply-side explanations will be discussed. Finally, we will zoom into how language contributes to gendering the labour market.	Waldendorf	9	Block course
Seminar "Sociological Immersion II"	Gender Inequalities Over the Life Course	Gender inequalities persist across many areas of society and throughout individuals' lives. They shape processes of primary socialization and the intergenerational transmission of norms, educational choices, employment trajectories, income and wealth, family dynamics, health, 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 examination 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	Zamberlan	9	

		advantages or disadvantages for specific social groups. The seminar begins with an overview of the core principles of the life course paradigm, which provides the analytical framework for engaging with a broad range of empirical studies. Particular attention is devoted to the quantitative methods used in the empirical research discussed in class. By the end of the seminar, participants will have a solid understanding of the life course approach and of how gender inequalities emerge, persist, 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 analysis in a highly interactive learning environment. Students are encouraged and supported in developing their own research ideas, which they will elaborate into an independent research project. A basic background in quantitative methods in empirical social research is recommended; more advanced methods will be introduced and discussed collectively during the seminar. A good command of English is required in order to engage with the readings and actively participate in class discussions.			
Seminar "Sociological Immersion II"	Gender Inequality in the Arts and Culture	We tend to see the art and cultural worlds as open, tolerant, and avant-gardist. Yet, women and minoritized groups are often underrepresented in artistic canons, cultural venues, and places of consecration. The #MeToo movement has also helped lift the taboo on speaking out about sexism in the arts. This seminar explores the role of gender on (1) the creation and production of the arts and culture, (2) the mediation, dissemination and value formation of arts and culture, and (3) the consumption and reception of symbolic goods. Topics include: examining how certain art and cultural worlds are feminized while others remain masculine; studying the devaluation of “feminine” artistic practices; exploring the social processes behind the perpetuation of gender (as well as class and ethno-racial) inequalities in the arts and culture; identifying the resources and strategies allowing some women and some men to transgress and subvert gender norms in art and cultural fields; and understanding how some women manage to reach high levels of artistic and economic reputation. The seminar is based on the presentation and discussion of theoretical and empirical papers in the field of Sociology. Students will read, present and discuss sociological papers written in English.	Provansal	9	

		Each session consists of two parts: (1) presentation and discussion of the mandatory reading(s) by students, followed by a collective discussion; and (2) introduction to some concepts, issues, authors and empirical studies related to the topic of the session.			

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

Module Title	Title	Course Description	Teacher	ECTS	Additional
Master's seminar	Housing Inequality: Economic Explanations, Environmental Linkages and Political Interpretations	Housing impacts everyone, and often in ways that are fundamentally unequal. In this course, we will try to understand what the market-based organization means for housing, and how markets can be institutionally different, e.g. whether you rent in London, Berlin or Warsaw. Housing is a massive driver for the consumption of environmental resources. It also mediates environmental impacts on its residents – for example via the thermal quality of dwellings, urban air pollution or exposure to environmental risks such as flooding. Lastly, housing is a political issue. The norms and interests of planners, architects, policymakers and other actors significantly shape housing supply while tenants and citizens have relatively little power. Interpretations of housing inequality matter, whether left-wing calls for expropriation or right-wing frames of housing as a scarce good that should be reserved for an in-group. After reviewing different aspects of housing economy, ecology and politics, we will attempt to envision alternative institutions and pathways for housing.	Bauer Amelie	9	
Master's seminar	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 persistent and systematic 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	Zamberlan	9	

		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 social 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 empirical research based on experimental designs. 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 sociology, complemented by insights from psychology and economics. The seminar combines theoretical and empirical perspectives in a highly interactive learning environment. The seminar combines theoretical perspectives with empirical analysis in a highly interactive learning environment. Students are encouraged and supported in developing their own research ideas, which they will elaborate into an independent research project. A background in quantitative methods in empirical social research is recommended. A good command of English is required in order to engage with the readings and actively participate in class discussions.			

*The course is not suitable for native English speakers.