

Sociology of antisemitism

Annotation:

Course sociologically analyses social phenomenon of antisemitism from ancient times to postmodernity. Students will have a chance to obtain knowledge on antisemitism as a universal phenomenon that ought to be explained multidimensionally. Course explains creation of antisemitism, history of this specific form of race hatred, as well as influence of modernity and of holocaust on processes of integration and assimilation of Jews. Course analyses interconnections of antisemitism and anti-Zionism, anti-Americanism, and anti-westernism within the European Union nowadays. Course deals also with methodological dilemmas of researching of antisemitism, analyses antisemitism in politics of Slovakia, and defines functions that modern antisemitism serves.

Course:

1. Seminar - Introduction into antisemitism as a social phenomenon.

Approaches and paradigms of various disciplines.

Operationalization of antisemitism.

Antisemitism as a universal phenomenon.

Depth and permanence of antisemitism.

2. Seminar - Explanations of anti-Semitism.

Explanations connected to Jews.

Explanations not connected to Jews.

3. Seminar - Historical perspective of antisemitism.

Antisemitism in history - ancient times, Christian tradition, antisemitism of enlightenment period, leftist antisemitism, antisemitism of Nazi era, anti-Zionism as a form of anti-Semitism.

Post-communist antisemitism.

Antisemitism in Slovakia and its specificities.

4. Seminar - Reproduction of antisemitism.

Creation of attitudes toward Jews.

Antisemitism in the process of social exchanges.

Psychological aspects of reproduction of antisemitism.

5. Seminar - Antisemitism and conspiratory messages

Conspiratory messages and evil causality.

Conspiratory messages and mass media.

Coexistence of extremes and fusion of paranoia.

6. Seminar - Antisemitism in public opinion

Antisemitism in Central Europe in comparative perspective.

Bogarduss scale of social distance in public opinion research.

Antisemitism and process of transformation.

Reflection of the past and of the holocaust in public opinion research.

7. Seminar - Critical reflection of the research of antisemitism

Research of prejudices and stereotypes.

Nationalism and antisemitism.

Research of traditional antisemitism.

Missing research of social psychological factors of antisemitism.

8. Seminar - Forms of antisemitism.

Antisemitic excesses and their typology.

Current antisemitic movements.

Racism as an ideological base of antisemitic movements.

Subjects of right-wing political extremism.

Structure of right-wing extremists.

Registered civil society associations interconnected to extremist groups.

Nationalistic political parties.

9. Seminar - Antisemitism as a social construct

Typization and stereotypization in the process of creation of anti-Semitic myths.

Antisemitism in media.

Presentation of extreme antisemitism.

Internet - space of gathering of antisemites.

10. Seminar - Functions of antisemitism

Legitimization and substitutive functions of antisemitism - examples of antisemitic affairs from the past (Dreyfus, Hilsner, Beilis, Frank).

Antisemitism as a way of exclusion of liberal elites from politics.

T.G. Masaryk and antisemitic myth.

11. Seminar - Neo-antisemitism

Antisemitism within the EU after 2004.

Anti-Zionism and antisemitism.

Antisemitism and anti-globalism.

Antisemitism and Israeli Palestinian conflict.

12. Seminar - Antisemitism in Central Europe

Interconnections of antisemitism, anti-Americanism, and anti-westernism in countries of Central Europe.

Ways of fighting with antisemitism, programs of the government of Slovakia and of the EU.

Literature:

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