Syllabus

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Elementary Forms of Social Life

Frankfurt Summer School
2019

05 – 30 August 2019
Module 2 (4 CP)

Social Sciences and Cultural Anthropology

The elementary forms of social life refers to an analytical perspective that places human communication into a threefold conceptual framework of actor, cultural ideas and constellations. Main authors of microsociology and cultural anthropology will be discussed in relation to empirical phenomena like opening as well as closing of communication, laughing, crying, manifestations of humor, grief, or communicative preconditions of misunderstanding, gossip, intrigue and conflict. Participants of the course are asked to outline small research projects that will be discussed on the basis of classical theoretical concepts (Georg Simmel, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Marcel Mauss, Max Weber).

Week 1

19 August (9.00-12.30)
Introduction to the sociology of elementary forms – Outline of fieldwork methodology
(Tilman Allert)

20 August (9.00-12.30)
Presentation of self in everyday life: face and fashion
(Tilman Allert)

21 August (9.00-12.30)
Presentation of self in everyday life: Eating, meeting, cooking
(Tilman Allert)

22 August (9.00-12.30)
The social meaning of delicacies: Between advertency and extravagancy
(Charlotte Nell)

Week 2

26 August (9.00-12.30)
Sociology of urban life: Passengers-Strangers-Beggars
(Charlotte Nell)

27 August (9.00-12.30)
Elementary forms: Love and friendship
(Charlotte Nell)

28 August (9.00-12.30)
Distant communication: letters-mails-emoticons
(Tilman Allert)

29 August (9.00-12.30)
Results of fieldwork
(Tilman Allert)
During both weeks lectures will comprise work on literature, group work, and small research projects concerning the topics.

The lectures will be held in English and take place in the PEG-Building - Campus Westend.

The academic programme coordinators are Prof. Dr. Tilman Allert and Charlotte Nell, MA, University of Jena.

**Lecturers**

**Prof. Dr. Tilman Allert**, Professor of sociology and social psychology at Goethe University Frankfurt. He has been teaching university classes for many years including lectures at the universities of Yerevan, Armenia, Tbilisi, Georgia, Lyon, Bordeaux and Nantes, France. He is member of the teaching staff at the international university of psychoanalysis, Berlin

**Charlotte Nell**

Charlotte Nell is a PhD-candidate and lecturer at the Schiller University of Jena. She has studied Sociology and American Studies at the University of Frankfurt as well as at the University of Toronto.

**Literature**


**General Information**

The course comprises 24.5 contact hours (7*3.5 hours). Upon successful completion, 4 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points will be awarded for the course module. A single ECTS point is defined as the equivalent of 25 to 30 hours of student workload. This includes class hours, additional preparations for class activities, readings, assignments as well as final assessments.

**Attendance:**

Participants have to attend at least 80 % of the classes.

**Evaluation/Exam:**

The final evaluation will be based on a presentation at the end of the module. Assessment and award of credit points will be on a pass/fail basis, no grades will be given.