



Contemporary Sociological Theories

Syllabus

Details of the discipline

Level of Higher Education	The Second (master's level)
Field of Knowledge	C - Social Sciences, Journalism, Information and International Relations
Speciality	C5 Sociology
Educational Program	Analytics of social data
Status of Discipline	Elective Course
Form of Learning	Full-time
Year of Education, Semester	1 year, autumn semester
ECTS	5 credits / 150 hours Lectures – 16 hours, Practical – 30 hours, Self-study – 104 hours
Form of Control	Exam, Modular control work
Schedule	https://schedule.kpi.ua/
Language	English
Information about course leader / teachers	Lecturer: Andrii Bahinskyi, PhD, associate professor, e-mail: andrei.baginsky@gmail.com Practical Classes: Andrii Bahinskyi, PhD, associate professor, e-mail: andrei.baginsky@gmail.com
Course placement	https://do.ipi.kpi.ua

Outline of the discipline

1. Description of the discipline, its aims, subject of study and learning outcomes

According to the educational and scientific program, the assimilation of the discipline contributes to the enhancement of the following competencies and program learning outcomes:

GC 01 Ability to abstract thinking, analysis and synthesis.

GC 04 Ability to work in an international context.

GC 06 Ability to make informed decisions.

PC 01 Ability to analyze social phenomena and processes.

PC 02 Ability to identify, diagnose and interpret social problems of Ukrainian society and the world community.

PC 08 Ability to cooperate with European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

PLO 01 Analyze social phenomena and processes using empirical data and modern concepts and sociological theories.

PLO 02 Carry out diagnostics and interpretation of social problems of the Ukrainian society and the world community, the reasons of their occurrence and consequences.

2. Prerequisites of the discipline (place in the structural and logical scheme of education according to the relevant educational program)

Leadership and Anti-crisis Management

Researching and Writing a Master's Thesis

3. The content of the discipline

List of topics

Topic 1. Origins of sociological discourse: a new genealogy.

Topic 2. Sociological theory after the Second World War, philosophy of science and prerequisites for the synthesis of classical thought in contemporary sociological theory.

Topic 3. Richard Munich as an interpreter of T. Parsons and a theorist of modernity.

Topic 4. From neofunctionalism to cultural sociology: the intellectual trajectory of Jeffrey Alexander.

Topic 5. Max Weber's sociology, Weber's renaissance and modern socio-political transformations.

Topic 6. Marxism, critical theory and contemporary interpretations of Marxism.

Topic 7. Historical macrosociology today: theoretical breakthroughs and syntheses.

Topic 8. Sociological theories of nationalism: Benedict Anderson and Ernest Gellner.

Topic 9. Sociological theories of multiple modernities.

4. Training materials and resources

Basic:

1. Adams M., Sydie R., Dawson D. *Contemporary Sociological Theory*. London : SAGE Publications, 2023. 456 p.
2. Ahmed S. *The Feminist Killjoy Handbook*. New York : Seal Press, 2023. 400 p.
3. Bauman Z., Donskis L. *Moral Blindness in the Liquid Modern World*. New ed. Cambridge : Polity Press, 2022. 240 p.
4. Bhabra G. K. *Colonial Global Economy*. Cambridge : Polity Press, 2022. 260 p.
5. Bhaskar R. et al. *Critical Theory and Social Transformation*. London : Routledge, 2022. 280 p.

Additional:

1. Couldry N., Mejias U. *The Costs of Connection: How Data Is Colonizing Human Life and Appropriating It for Capitalism*. Updated ed. Stanford : Stanford University Press, 2023. 280 p.
2. Dean M. *Governmentality: Power and Rule in Modern Society*. 3rd ed. London : SAGE Publications, 2023. 336 p.
3. Delanty G. *Contemporary Social Theory*. 3rd ed. Cambridge : Polity Press, 2023. 320 p.
4. Elliott A. *Contemporary Social Theory*. 2nd ed. London : Routledge, 2023. 360 p.
5. Fraser N., Jaeggi R. *Capitalism: A Conversation in Critical Theory*. Cambridge : Polity Press, 2022. 240 p.
6. Honneth A. *Reification and Recognition*. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2022. 240 p.
7. Lemke T. *The Government of Things: Foucault and the New Materialisms*. Cambridge : Polity Press, 2023. 220 p.

8. Lupton D. *Digital Sociology*. 2nd ed. London : Routledge, 2024. 240 p.
9. Mignolo W., Walsh C. *On Decoloniality: Concepts, Analytics, Praxis*. New ed. Durham : Duke University Press, 2023. 360 p.
10. Ritzer G., Stepnisky J. *Sociological Theory*. 11th ed. New York : McGraw-Hill Education, 2022. 736 p.
11. Rosa H. *The Uncontrollability of the World*. Cambridge : Polity Press, 2022. 200 p.
12. Zuboff S. *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*. New ed. New York : PublicAffairs, 2022. 704 p.

Information resources

Access mode: <http://www.sociology.kpi.ua/literature> - Department of Sociology, Igor Sikorsky KPI

Educational content

5. Methods of mastering the discipline (educational component)

Lecture classes

Lecture 1: Origins of sociological discourse: a new genealogy.

Main questions: Intellectual origins of sociology: Sieyès and Quetelet. The ideological context of the dynamics of sociological theories: the Cold War and the clash of powers. Sociological theories and political and economic practice.

Independent work of student: A New Historiography of the Origin of Sociological Discourse from the Enlightenment to the Present. Contemporary sociological theories and ideologies. The latest sociological theories: the state and public policy.

Lecture 2: Sociological theory after the Second World War, philosophy of science and prerequisites for the synthesis of classics in modern sociological theory

Main questions: Methodological principles of logical positivism and sociology. The role of philosophy of science in the discourse of contemporary sociological theories. Principles of methodology of research programs and their application in historical and sociological analysis. Problems of micro- and macro- in theoretical sociology. Centrality of classics and discourse of modern sociology. The concept of interpenetration in classical sociology and modern sociological theories.

Independent work of student: Transformations and continuity of the positivist approach in sociological theorizing. From logical positivism to postpositivism. Classical sociology and modern sociological theories.

Richard Munich as an interpreter of T. Parsons and a theorist of modernity.

Main questions: Theoretical synthesis or eclecticism: "R. Munich's theories of action". I. Kant's philosophy and theoretical sociology: from M. Weber to T. Parsons. Sociological theory of T. Parsons and its Kantian roots. Parsons' idea of continuity: theoretical breakthrough or lack of development? Conceptualization of modernity by R. Munich.

Independent work of student: T. Parsons' Kantian core of sociology and contemporary sociological theories. R. Munich: reconstruction of classical sociology as a theory building. Weberization of Parsonian sociology by R. Munich.

Lecture 3: From neofunctionalism to cultural sociology: the intellectual trajectory of J. Alexander.

Main questions: Two versions of neofunctionalism: J. Alexander and R. Munich. The concept of differentiation as the basis of J. Alexander's reconstruction of Parsonsian sociology and neo-functional research program. Neofunctionalism in the context of the dichotomy "modern versus postmodern". From T. Parsons to E. Durkheim: cultural sociology of J. Alexander.

Independent work of student: Theoretical logic in the sociology of J. Alexander as a reconstruction of classical theory. The concept of social differentiation: yesterday and today. From Parsonsian neofunctionalism to Durkheim's cultural sociology.

Weber's sociology, Weber's renaissance and modern socio-political transformations.

Main questions: Weber's sociology of religion and social transformation: post-Leninist societies in a comparative-historical perspective. "Protestant ethics" and historical reality. Richard Munch: "Neo-Parsonian" versus "Weberian". M. Weber's political sociology and political realities of the modern world-system: neopatrimonialism and leadership in global dimensions. Weber's typology of capitalisms and the future of capitalism.

Independent work of student: Religion and Economic Behavior and Development. The global revival of neopatrimonialism in the world of politics. Max Weber's sociology of capitalisms and modern socio-economic realities of modernism and world system.

Lecture 4: Marxism, critical theory and modern interpretations of Marxism.

Main questions: Variations of (neo)Marxist discourse in contemporary sociological theories. The public sphere between communicative rationality and public sociology. Marxism as a progressive research program: Burawoy's interpretation.

Independent work of student: Marxism, neo-Marxism and contemporary sociological theories. Marxist contemporary sociological theories between the public sphere and class conflict.

Historical macrosociology today: theoretical breakthroughs and syntheses.

Main questions: Contemporary sociological theories: the dimension of historical microsociology. Key figures of historical microsociology: F. Braudel, I. Wallerstein, R. Collins. G. Derluigian as a historical sociologist of post-Leninist and global transformations.

Independent work of student: Intellectual sources of contemporary historical sociological theories. Interpretation of the modern world-system from the standpoint of contemporary theories of historical sociology: capitalism and empire.

Lecture 5: Sociological theories of nationalism: B. Anderson and E. Gellner.

Main questions: The modern state as the initiator of nation building. Historical trajectories of nation formation. Marxism and nationalism.

Independent work of student: Nationalism as a cultural and ideological program of modernism. Historical sociology of empires and nations.

Sociological theories of numerous modernists.

Main questions: From the uniqueness of the Western and exemplary modernity to pluralism of multiple modernities. Intellectual origins of the research program of multiple modernities. The uniqueness of the West or a historical chance? Contemporary sociological theory between Eurocentrism and are-Orientation. S. N. Eisenstadt and sociological theorizing about multiple modernities.

Independent work of student: Eurocentric tradition in sociological theorizing. Alternatives to Eurocentrism in contemporary sociological theories: Re-Orientation and multiple modernities.

Lecture 6: Structuration Theory (A. Giddens)

Main questions: Key principles of structuration theory. The duality of structure and agency: core concepts. Structuration and social practices: the role of routine. Critiques of Giddens and applications of the theory in contemporary research.

Independent work of student: Case analysis (chosen by the student) through the lens of the duality of structure and agency. Preparation of a short essay (1–2 pages) on the significance of structuration for understanding social change.

Habitus and Field Theory (P. Bourdieu)

Main questions: Concepts of habitus, field, and capital. Mechanisms of reproduction of social inequality. Symbolic violence and legitimation of power. Applying field theory in empirical research.

Independent work of student: A micro-ethnographic assignment: identifying manifestations of symbolic capital in a real environment. Preparation of an analytical table "Types of capital and ways of their conversion."

Lecture 7: Post-Structuralism and Discourse Theory (M. Foucault, E. Laclau & Ch. Mouffe)

Main questions: The concept of discourse and power/knowledge in Foucault's work. Genealogical method and the archaeology of knowledge. Discourse hegemony (Laclau and Mouffe). The role of discourses in the formation of identities.

Independent work of student: Critical analysis of a media discourse fragment using Foucault's concept of power. Preparation of a diagram with key discursive nodal points of a selected social issue.

Network Theories and Social Capital (B. Wellman, M. Granovetter)

Main questions: Basics of social network analysis: nodes, ties, density. The "strength of weak ties" concept. Networked individualism and changing models of social integration. Social capital: measurement, functions, critique.

Independent work of student: Construction and visualization of the student's own ego-network (15–20 ties). Short report on the role of weak ties in one's personal communication experience.

Lecture 8: Neo-Marxist and Critical Theories (F. Jameson, D. Harvey, A. Honneth)

Main questions: Neo-Marxist analysis of late capitalism. Space, capital, and urbanization in Harvey's work. Recognition theory (Honneth). The relevance of Critical Theory today.

Independent work of student: Writing a review of a recent critical article on capitalism. Comparative analysis of Harvey's and Honneth's approaches to social justice

Actor-Network Theory (B. Latour) and New Materialisms

Main questions: Fundamentals of Actor-Network Theory: actants, assemblages, networks. Symmetry between humans and nonhumans. New materialisms and the agency of things. Applying ANT in science and technology studies.

Independent work of student: Analysis of a chosen technological object as an "actant" within a network. Preparation of a mini-project: an actor-network map of an everyday process (e.g., online shopping or a transportation route).

Seminar classes

Seminar session 1: Classical Foundations Revisited: From Structural Functionalism to Conflict Theory

Seminar session 2: Symbolic Interactionism and the Construction of Social Reality

Seminar session 3: Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology: The Micro-Production of Social Order

Seminar session 4: Giddens' Structuration Theory: Agency, Structure, and Social Practices

Seminar session 5: Bourdieu's Habitus, Field, and Capital: Understanding Power and Inequality

Seminar session 6: Post-Structuralism and Foucault: Power/Knowledge and Discourse

Seminar session 7: Discourse Theory of Laclau & Mouffe: Hegemony and Identity Formation

Seminar session 8: Network Approaches: Granovetter, Wellman, and the Logic of Social Ties

Seminar session 9: Social Capital: Concepts, Measurement, and Critiques

Seminar session 10: Neo-Marxist Perspectives: Capitalism, Space, and Power

Seminar session 11: Critical Theory and the Politics of Recognition (Honneth, Fraser)

Seminar session 12: Actor-Network Theory: Nonhuman Agency and Assemblages

Seminar session 13: New Materialisms and Posthumanist Sociology

Seminar session 14: Intersectionality and Contemporary Feminist Theory. Contemporary Debates: Globalization, Digitalization, and the Future of Sociological Theory

Seminar session 15: Modular control work

6. Independent work of student

The student's independent work includes:

preparation for classroom lessons – 70 hours;

preparation for module tests – 4 hours;

preparation for the exam – 30 hours.

Total – 104 hours.

Policy and control

7. Course policy (educational component)

Class attendance

Attendance of lectures and seminars is mandatory.

Evaluation control measures missed

The missed modular test can be rewritten, but until the time of the intermediate certification, taking into account the time required by the instructor to test the work. Missed express quizzes can't be retaken.

Procedure for appealing the results of tests

Students have the opportunity to raise any issue related to the control procedure and expect it to be addressed according to the university procedures. To appeal against the grade, the student must submit a statement stating the reason for the appeal, the facts of the instructor's bias. The instructor should discuss this statement with the student in person at the consultation. In case if the dispute is not resolved of lack of understanding on the result of the control measure, a commission made up of the department is formed, which evaluates the procedure of the control measure and the student's claim. The Commission may decide to re-examine or reject the appeal. The decision of the commission is final and not subject to appeal.

University policy

Academic integrity

The policy and principles of academic integrity are defined in Section 3 of the Code of Honor of the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute". Details: <https://kpi.ua/code>.

Norms of Ethical Conduct

The norms of ethical conduct of students and employees are defined in Section 2 of the Code of Honor of the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute". More information: <https://kpi.ua/code>.

Policy on the use of artificial intelligence

The policy on the use of artificial intelligence and its principles are regulated by the order "Policy on the use of artificial intelligence for academic activities at Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute". More information: <https://osvita.kpi.ua/node/1225>.

8. Types of control and rating system for evaluation of learning outcomes (RSE)

The student's grade in the discipline consists of the points he receives for the following types of work:

1. answers in seminars;
2. writing a modular control work (MCW);
3. exam.

1. Answers in seminars. Weight score - 5 points for a correct answer (addition to the answer) to one question. The maximum number of points for activity in seminars is equal to $G_{sem} = 5 \text{ points} * 5 \text{ answers} = 25 \text{ points}$

When answering each question, the student receives:

- "excellent", a complete answer (at least 90% of the required information, if the student demonstrates a deep knowledge of the material in the answer, logically and consistently presents it, gives reasonable conclusions, freely operates with specific data, easily and convincingly answers the questions posed; active participation in the lesson - 5 points;
- "very good" and "good", a sufficiently complete answer (at least 75% of the required information), or a complete answer with minor inaccuracies, answers most of the questions posed - 4 points;
- "satisfactory" and "enough", an incomplete answer (at least 60% of the required information) and significant errors, answers the questions posed weakly, or does not answer at all, additions to the answers of other students - 3 points.
- "unsatisfactory", no work in the seminar, the student was not ready to answer the questions posed - 0-2 points.

2. Modular control work. Weight score - 25.

Evaluation criteria:

- "excellent", a complete answer (at least 90% of the required information) to all questions of the modular control work; the student is fluent in the presented material - 23-25 points;
- "good", the student provided answers to 75% of the questions of the modular control work; answers to all control questions need clarification - 19-22 points;
- "satisfactory", the student provided answers to 60% of the questions of the modular control work; the answers require significant clarification, insufficient knowledge of the material - 15-18 points;
- "unsatisfactory", the answer does not meet the requirements for 5 points, the student is not oriented in the material, an extremely limited answer - 0-14 points.

3. Exam. Weight score – 50.

The exam involves oral answers to questions, the list of which is given in Appendix 2.

Evaluation criteria:

- 40-50 points – the student answers almost all exam questions, demonstrates deep knowledge of the material, presents it logically and consistently, makes well-founded conclusions, freely operates with specific data, expresses his own position on debatable issues, demonstrates signs of theoretical thinking and sociological imagination;

- 30-39 points – the student answers most exam questions, demonstrates a good level of knowledge of the material;
- 20-29 points – the student answers approximately half of the exam questions, demonstrates rather superficial knowledge;
- 0-19 points – the student answers only some exam questions, does not have his own position, allows significant inaccuracies.

Incentive points (no more than 10 points for all types of work):

- for research activities (participation in conferences, "Science Days of the Faculty of Sociology and Law", student work competitions, publications);
- participation in faculty Olympiads in the discipline and all-Ukrainian Olympiads.

Conditions for a positive intermediate certification:

To receive a "pass" from the first intermediate certification, the student must have at least 12 points, to receive a "pass" from the second intermediate certification, the student must have at least 24 points.

Conditions for admission to the exam:

The condition for a student to be admitted to the exam is to receive a preliminary rating score of at least 24 points.

Table of correspondence of rating points to grades on the university scale:

Student rating (points)	University scale of assessments of the level of acquired competencies (learning outcomes)
100-95	Excellent
94-85	Very good
84-75	Fine
74-65	Satisfactorily
64-60	Enough
Less than 60	Not allowed

Possible marks in the semester control report:

Not allowed	Failure to meet the admission requirements for semester examination
Removed	Violation of the principles of academic integrity or moral and ethical norms of behavior
Did not appear	A candidate was admitted but did not appear for the exam

Review of the rating assessment system during the semester

The review of the rating assessment system may be carried out upon a motivated application by the applicant studying the educational component, the student government body or the student trade union committee, submitted to the head of the providing department. The review procedure is defined in Section 7 of the Regulations on the system of assessment of learning outcomes at Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute https://osvita.kpi.ua/sites/default/files/downloads/Pologennia_RSO_2025.pdf

9. Additional information on the discipline (educational component)

Classes within the course "Contemporary Sociological Theories" are conducted in the form of lectures and seminars. During lectures, the lecturer formulates the background assumptions of theories, formulates

key concepts, comes up with examples. Lectures take the form of a dialogue, when the instructor asks students questions about the teaching material, may ask to give an immediate answer to the current topic being discussed in the class, or the material of previous classes.

The student's independent work is designed to prepare questions for seminars, analysis of sources. The instructor makes suggestions as to what relevant literature to discuss. The main form of activity during seminars is an oral report that aims at developing the communicative abilities of the student combined with the demonstration and consolidation of the knowledge of the topic. The instructor evaluates both the depth, breadth, accuracy of definitions during the student's speech, the ability to respond to questions from the audience. During the seminar, students' activity in formulating questions, participating in discussions, formulating alternative hypotheses, the ability to refer to theoretical positions and critically evaluate existing theories and practices is additionally assessed.

Informal Education

At the student's request, in circumstances that do not promote regular attendance, the study of certain substantive parts of the educational component in asynchronous mode is allowed, in particular, through the mastery of distance courses. To take into account the points for mastering such courses in the evaluation system, they must correspond to the content of the syllabus, be agreed with the teacher, and to confirm the completion of the courses, the student must provide an appropriate document indicating the name and scope in hours. Recognition of the results of informal education takes place in the manner determined in the relevant Regulation of KPI named after Igor Sikorsky <https://osvita.kpi.ua/node/179>.

Distance learning

Synchronous distance learning is possible using video conferencing platforms and the Sikorsky educational platform for distance learning at the university.

Inclusive learning

Allowed

Working program of the discipline (syllabus):

Compiled by Andrii Bahinskyi, PhD in political sciences, Associate Professor, Associate Professor of the Department of Sociology,

Approved at the department of sociology meeting (protocol № 16 of 23/06/2026)

Approved by the Methodical Commission of the Faculty of sociology and law (protocol № 7 of 30/06/2026)

Appendix 1

Module Control Test

1. Intellectual origins of sociology: contributions of Sieyès and Quetelet.
2. The Cold War and its impact on sociological theorizing.
3. The relationship between sociological theories and political-economic practices.
4. The influence of the Enlightenment on early sociological thought.
5. The historiography of sociological discourse from the 18th century to today.
6. Logical positivism and its role in sociological methodology.
7. The impact of the philosophy of science on contemporary sociological theories.
8. Methodological principles of research programs in sociology.
9. Micro- and macro-sociological problems in theoretical analysis.
10. Classical sociology and its integration into modern sociological discourse.
11. Richard Munch's interpretation of T. Parsons' theories.
12. Kantian influences on sociological theory from Weber to Parsons.
13. Continuity and change in Parsons' theoretical system.

14. *Conceptualization of modernity in Richard Munch's works.*
15. *Neofunctionalism: similarities and differences between J. Alexander and R. Munch.*
16. *The concept of differentiation in neofunctionalism.*
17. *The debate on modernity and postmodernity in sociological theory.*
18. *From Parsons to Durkheim: J. Alexander's cultural sociology.*
19. *Weber's sociology of religion and its application to post-Leninist societies.*
20. *The Protestant ethic and its historical implications.*
21. *Richard Munch's approach: Neo-Parsonian versus Weberian perspectives.*
22. *Neopatrimonialism and leadership in contemporary global politics.*
23. *Weber's typology of capitalism and its relevance today.*
24. *Variations of Marxist and neo-Marxist discourse in modern sociology.*
25. *The public sphere in the context of communicative rationality and public sociology.*
26. *Burawoy's interpretation of Marxism as a progressive research program.*
27. *The role of historical sociology in contemporary sociological analysis.*
28. *Key figures in historical macrosociology: Braudel, Wallerstein, and Collins.*
29. *G. Derluigian's historical sociology of post-Leninist and global transformations.*
30. *Theories of nationalism: B. Anderson and E. Gellner's contributions.*

Exam Questions

1. *The modern state and its role in nation-building processes.*
2. *Historical trajectories of nation formation in sociological analysis.*
3. *Marxism and nationalism: intersections and debates.*
4. *Nationalism as a cultural and ideological program of modernity.*
5. *Historical sociology of empires and nations.*
6. *The concept of multiple modernities and its intellectual origins.*
7. *S. N. Eisenstadt's theory of multiple modernities.*
8. *The uniqueness of Western modernity: historical necessity or chance?*
9. *Eurocentrism in sociological theorizing.*
10. *Alternatives to Eurocentrism: re-orientation and global perspectives.*
11. *The transformation of positivist approaches in sociological theory.*
12. *The shift from logical positivism to postpositivism in sociology.*
13. *The role of classical sociology in modern sociological theorizing.*
14. *Theoretical synthesis versus eclecticism in R. Munch's theories of action.*
15. *Weber's political sociology and its implications for contemporary politics.*
16. *The global revival of neopatrimonialism in modern political systems.*
17. *Max Weber's sociology of capitalism in the context of the world system.*
18. *The interplay between religion and economic behavior.*
19. *Contemporary neo-Marxist perspectives in sociological thought.*
20. *The relationship between class conflict and the public sphere in modern Marxist theory.*
21. *The methodological contributions of historical macrosociology.*
22. *Theories of capitalism and empire in historical sociology.*
23. *The role of historical microsociology in contemporary sociological discourse.*
24. *The methodological challenges of integrating classical and modern sociological theories.*
25. *The impact of structural-functionalism on contemporary sociological research.*
26. *Cultural sociology as a reinterpretation of classical sociological theories.*
27. *The evolution of social differentiation as a key sociological concept.*
28. *The role of discourse analysis in contemporary sociological research.*
29. *Sociological perspectives on globalization and its effects on modern societies.*
30. *The relevance of classical sociological theories in addressing contemporary social problems.*
31. *Explain the main principles of Giddens' structuration theory and discuss the concept of the duality of structure.*
32. *What is Bourdieu's notion of habitus, and how does it contribute to the reproduction of social inequality?*
33. *Compare the concepts of cultural capital and social capital in Bourdieu's theoretical framework.*
34. *Discuss Foucault's understanding of the relationship between power and knowledge.*
35. *What is the genealogical method in Foucault's work, and how does it differ from the archaeological method?*
36. *Explain the concept of discourse in post-structuralist theory. Provide an example.*
37. *What is "hegemony" according to Laclau and Mouffe? How is it constructed?*
38. *Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of Actor-Network Theory (ANT) in explaining social phenomena.*
39. *Define the term actant in Actor-Network Theory and explain its significance.*

40. *What is network individualism, and how does it transform traditional forms of social integration?*
41. *Explain Granovetter's concept of "the strength of weak ties" and its empirical implications.*
42. *Discuss the main criticisms directed at social capital theory.*
43. *What distinguishes neo-Marxist approaches to capitalism from classical Marxism?*
44. *Explain David Harvey's concept of spatial fix in the context of global capitalism.*
45. *What is Axel Honneth's theory of recognition, and why is it important for contemporary social theory?*
46. *Compare critical theory and post-structuralist theory in their understanding of power.*
47. *What methodological innovations did ethnomethodology introduce into sociological research?*
48. *Explain the concept of "symbolic violence" in Bourdieu's theory. Provide an example.*
49. *What are assemblages in new materialist theory, and how do they differ from social structures?*
50. *Discuss the role of nonhuman actors in the production of social order.*
51. *What is intersectionality, and why is it significant for contemporary sociological analysis?*
52. *Compare feminist standpoint theory with intersectional feminist theory.*
53. *What are the main assumptions of symbolic interactionism? Provide an example of symbolic interactionist analysis.*
54. *Explain the difference between micro-, meso-, and macro-level theories in contemporary sociology.*
55. *Discuss the theoretical contributions of Manuel Castells to the sociology of networks and information society.*
56. *What is posthumanism, and how does it challenge classical sociological categories?*
57. *Explain the main criticisms directed at post-structuralist approaches.*
58. *How does discourse shape political identities in Laclau and Mouffe's theory of hegemony?*
59. *Discuss how globalization challenges traditional sociological theories.*
60. *Provide a comparative analysis of three contemporary sociological theories and explain which you find most effective for studying digital society*