CIVILIZATION OF VIOLENCE

Course description

Objectives

The objective of the course is to prepare students for recognizing and understanding social activities and circumstances that result in violence, as well as for autonomously recognizing the process of institutionalizing both violence and the social framework within which violence with time becomes an acceptable and desirable social activity.

Course content:

* Freedom and/or safety;
* The concept of power in sociology;
* Redistribution of power among social groups and using violence with the aim to assume and retain power;
* Sociability and allowed forms of violence, cases in which the mechanism of social control is applied with different levels of social sanctions;
* Particular interests and the making of decisions regarding the forms of violence that will be subject to social control mechanisms on the one hand and the ones that will be left a wider space of freedom or will not be defined as violence at all;
* Redistribution of the relations of power and interests and the construction of social control mechanisms;
* Violence as an alternative and desirable means of achieving social goals;
* Violence as a legitimate model for various forms of strategic activity;
* The example of terrorism as a form of violence directed towards achieving political and economic goals – dilemmas about the causes and consequences of terrorism;
* Violence and moral panic, the forms of violence that serve to redirect attention from the critical recognition of the civilization of violence.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

* interpret the phenomenon of violence in a wide range of theoretical perspectives in sociology,
* present arguments regarding the significance of critical (self)awareness and interdisciplinarity,
* independently analyse the forms of social activity and social structures that produce violence,
* recognize and reveal common and generally accepted institutional practice that encourages violence in social reality,
* autonomously recognize the process of the institutionalization of violence and the social, framework within which violence with time becomes an acceptable and desirable social activity.

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