

Thematic areas and recommended bibliography for the State Doctoral Examination at FSS UO for the Academic Year 2024/2025

A) Social work theories

1. Modernisation theories (Beck, U., Wagner, P. and others). The position of social work from the aspect of Beck's reflexive modernity and Wagner's second crisis of modernity.
2. Social exclusion theory. Social work in the context of the development of social exclusion from an individual phenomenon to a mass problem.
3. Transformations of the social issue (Castel, R.) Possibilities and limits of social work as a tool for the inclusion of socially excluded persons and groups in society.
4. Theories of justification (Boltanski, L., Thévenot, L.). Different ways of legitimisation of social work and conflicts between them. The tension between mission, economic efficiency and civil law concept.
5. The institutional programme and its crisis (Dubet, F.). The classical concept of "working with people" and the risks of deprofessionalisation of social work.

Bibliography:

- Your essay for the Current Issues in Social Work course / Current theoretical discourse of Social Work.
- Beck, U. *Risk Society. Towards a New Modernity*. New Delhi: Sage, 1992.
- Esping-Andersen, G. *The three worlds of welfare capitalism*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1990.
- Giddens, A. *Capitalism and modern social Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1971.
- *British Journal of Social Work*, ISSN 0045-3102, eISSN 1468-263X
- *European Journal of Social Work*, ISSN 1369-1457, eISSN 1468-2664
- *Social Work*, ISSN 0037-8046, eISSN 1545-6846
- *Social Work and Society*, ISSN 1613-8953

B) Methodology of science and research in social work

Explain and illustrate using an example from your doctoral thesis:

1. The relationship between theory and empirics in social sciences, different concepts according to different paradigms, strategies, schools, and trends.
2. Objectivity and truthfulness in social sciences. Ethics of scientific research.
3. The concepts of the scientific development, different conceptions.
4. The conflict between two concepts of social science (explanatory and interpretive approach toward exploring of social reality); realism vs nominalism; holism x individualism; universalism, perspectivism, relativism
5. Multi-paradigm nature of contemporary social sciences, rationale, definition criteria of individual paradigms.
6. Principles distinguishing qualitative from quantitative research. Possibilities and limits of strategies, evaluation criteria. Theoretical (paradigmatic) framework for the choice of research approach.
7. Qualitative and quantitative research as a way to understand the studied social phenomena in the action field of social work. Analytical-inductive, hypothetico-deductive and abductive model.
8. Basic approaches in qualitative research in social work. Ethical aspects of qualitative research.
9. Qualitative research design (research project). Research area, topic, research questions in qualitative research. Conceptual framework, role of theory in qualitative research.
10. Methods of collection, processing and analysis of qualitative/quantitative data. Methods of creating a research population sample in qualitative/quantitative research. Concept of validity, reliability, and objectivity in qualitative/quantitative research, criteria and methods of their ensuring.

Bibliography (Topics 1-5):

- Fay, B. *Contemporary Philosophy of Social Sciences: A Multicultural Approach*. Wiley-Blackwell, 1996.
- Janow, D., Schwartz-Shea, P. (eds.) *Interpretation and Method. Empirical Research Methods and Interpretive Turn*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge 2014, part I: Meaning and methodology.
- Kaplan, D. W. ed. *The Sage Handbook of Quantitative Methodology for the Social Sciences*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2004.
- Lincoln, Y. S., Lynham, S. A., Guba, E.G. Paradigmatic controversies, contradictions, and emerging confluences, revisited. IN: *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research* (eds. Denzin, N., Lincoln, Y.S.). London: Sage Publications, 2017.
- Ochrana, F. *Methodology of Science. An Introduction*. Prague: Karolinum, 2012.
- Winch, P. *The Idea of a Social Science and its Relation to Philosophy*. London: Routledge, 2003.

Bibliography (Topics 6-10):

- Clarke, A., Charmaz, K. *Grounded Theory and Situational Analysis*. Los Angeles: Sage, 2014.
- Clarke, A., Friese, C., Washburn, R. *Situational analysis in practice: mapping research with grounded theory*. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press, 2015.
- Creswell, J. W., Plano Clark, V. L. *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2018.
- Denzin, N. K., Lincoln, Y. S. (eds.). *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Los Angeles: Sage, 2011.
- Engel, R. J., Schutt, R. J. *Social Work Research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2010.
- Engel, R. J., Schutt, R. J. *The Practice of Research in Social Work*. Los Angeles: Sage, 2017.
- Charmaz, K. *Constructing grounded theory*. Los Angeles, 2014.
- Punch, K. F. *Introduction to Social Research Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2014.
- Rubin, A., Babbie, E. R. *Research Methods for Social Work*. UK: Cengage, 2017.
- Silverman, D. *Interpreting Qualitative Data: a Guide to the Principles of Qualitative Research*. Los Angeles: Sage, 2011.
- Thyer, B. (ed.). *The Handbook of Social Work Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2010.

Based on the suggestions from doctoral thesis second readers, the Chair of the examining committee shall set two specific questions/topics from the area of Social Work Theories and two specific questions from the area of Methodology of Science and Research in Social Work, which the student will receive a week in advance of State Doctoral Examination.