

**Sociology of Quality of Life**  
**Fall 2010, Das Institut für Soziologie, Universität Bremen**  
Course Instructors: Ekaterina Uglanova, Hilal Galip and Liuba Borisova

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**Contact info:** Ekaterina Uglanova ([euglanov@bigsss-bremen.de](mailto:euglanov@bigsss-bremen.de)), Hilal Galip ([hgalip@bigsss-bremen.de](mailto:hgalip@bigsss-bremen.de)), Liuba Borisova ([borisova@bigsss.uni-bremen.de](mailto:borisova@bigsss.uni-bremen.de))

**Course Description:** Quality-of-life research emerged as an outcome of numerous within- and between-disciplinary attempts to measure and engineer social progress (an example of such endeavor would be well-known Human Development Index). The course will start with overview of social indicators (such as GDP or Life expectancy) and constructed indexes (HDI, GDI, GEM, etc) that aimed at measuring social progress. Furthermore, the course will focus on understanding of quality of life on various levels: individual (life satisfaction, happiness); community (neighborhood quality of life); and societal (social welfare). Finally, we will discuss how social policy can profit from quality-of-life research. During the course the students will gain insights how to use and interpret social indicators within the context of macro-, mezzo- and micro-levels of sociological research.

Grading will be based on: (1) term paper of 2000 ( $\pm$  200) words (50% of the grade), (2) participation in class (50% of the grade) and the level of involvement in class discussions and activities.

**Some selected texts from Course Reading List:**

- Bauer, R.A. (Eds.) (1966) *Social Indicators*. Cambridge, Mass., London: The M.I.T. Press.
- Gough, I. & McGregor, J.A. (2007) *Wellbeing in developing countries: From theory to Research*. Cambridge University Press
- Graham, C. & Pettinato, S. (2002) *Happiness and Hardship: Opportunity and Insecurity in New Market Economies*: Brookings Institution Press
- Kahneman, D., Diener, E., & Schwartz, N. (Eds). (1998) *Well-Being: The Foundations of Hedonic Psychology*. Russell Sage Foundation
- Philips, D. (2006). *Quality of Life: Concept, Policy and Practice*. Routledge: London & New York.
- Stutzer, A. & Frey, B. (2001) *Happiness and Economics: How the Economy and Institutions Affect Human Well Being*. Princeton University Press
- Veenhoven, R. (2002). Why social policy needs subjective indicators. *Social Indicators Research*, 58, 33-45.