



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 34403

Name: Contemporary sociological theory

Cycle: Undergraduate Studies

ECTS Credits: 9

Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Facultat de Ciències Socials	3	Annual
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Dret	3	
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Ciències Socials	3	
1925 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Dret	3	
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Facultat de Dret	3	Annual

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Sociological theory	COMPULSORY
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Year 3 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Year 3 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY
1925 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Year 3 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Asignaturas obligatorias de tercer curso	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

HERZOG BENNO

SUMMARY

Contemporary Sociological Theory is a core subject in the academic training of Sociology graduates. Its year-long format and placement in the third year, following a similar course in the second year focused on classical sociology, allow students to develop a comprehensive understanding of current sociological theory.



Sociological theory cannot be understood merely as a historical account or a catalogue of theories. Nor can it be seen as a linear discourse that favors one theoretical stance over others. This course is viewed as an opportunity to reflect on the scientific nature of the social sciences, while maintaining a strong connection with social research methodology and empirical inquiry.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Analyse contemporary society, its structure and dynamics based on sociological concepts and theories.

Analyse social phenomena adopting a multidisciplinary perspective (sociological, psychosocial, economic, political, historical and anthropological).

Apply the principles of the professional code of ethics of sociology and develop a commitment to social problems.

Clearly communicate theories, problems and proposals of a sociological nature, both orally and in writing, using new information and communication technologies.

Describe and explain social inequalities based on social theories and indicators and detect emerging processes.

Develop gender perspective and integrate it into the study of social reality.

Learn independently and develop initiative in the field of sociology.

Respect and promote the principles of fundamental rights, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, democratic values and sustainability.

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.



Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Understand and analyse the evolution of sociological theory and its main currents and schools.

Understand the cultural diversity of societies.

Work in a team with a multidisciplinary perspective.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Western Marxism and Critical Theory

Theories and aporias of emancipation after Auschwitz.
Forms and theories of social critique.

2. The Subject and Everyday Life

Phenomenology and interactionism.
Micro theories and rational action.
Ethnomethodology.

3. Systems and Structures

Functionalism, post-functionalism, and systems theories.
Structuralism and post-structuralism.

4. Attempts at Synthesis

The problem of structure, agency, and integration.
Structuration theories and structuralist constructivism.

5. Modernity and Postmodernity

Diversity and globalization as theoretical challenges.
Insecurity, risk, and liquid boundaries.
Institutionalized individualism.

6. Current Trends and Debates

The specific topic will be proposed by the teaching staff.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES



Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	90,00
Total hours	90,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Preparation of lessons	60,00
Preparation for assessment activities	75,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	135,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course may combine different methodologies: theoretical explanation, practical analysis, research, and guided study. Although there is room for cooperative work among students, the main dynamic of the coursework is individual.

EVALUATION

The course evaluation will consist of a final exam and continuous assessment:

Ø A final exam that will account for at least 50% of the final grade.

Continuous assessment may include:

Ø The reading of at least one sociological book.

Ø Reading preparatory or in-class texts.

Ø An original written assignment.

The format, percentage, and evaluation criteria will be determined by the teaching staff and will always comply with current regulations.

REFERENCES



ESSENTIALS

Textbooks

Hans Joas y Wolfgang Knöbl (2016). Teoría social: veinte lecciones introductorias. Madrid: Akal.

Unit 1.

Jurgen Habermas (2023). Teoría de la acción comunicativa: I. Racionalidad de la acción y racionalización social. (II). Crítica de la razón funcionalista. Madrid: Trotta.

Max Horkheimer (2002). Teoría tradicional y teoría crítica. Barcelona: Paidós.

Unit 2.

Peter L. Berger y Thomas Luckmann (1968). La construcción social de la realidad. Buenos Aires: Amorrortu. (Versión en valenciano: Peter L. Berger y Thomas Luckmann (1988). La construcció social de la realitat: un tractat de sociologia del coneixement. Barcelona: Herder.)

Erving Goffman (1981). La presentación de la persona en la vida cotidiana. Buenos Aires: Amorrortu.

Unit 3.

Michel Foucault (1999). El orden del discurso. Barcelona: Tusquets. (Versión en valenciano: Michel Foucault (1982). L'ordre del discurs: i altres escrits. Barcelona: Laia.)

Niklas Luhmann (2007). La sociedad de la sociedad. México: Herder.

Unit 4.

Pierre Bourdieu. (1998). La Distinción. Criterio y bases sociales del gusto. Madrid: Taurus.

Randall Collins (2009). Cadenas de rituales de interacción. Barcelona: Anthropos.

Anthony Giddens (1995). La constitución de la Sociedad. Buenos Aires: Amorrortu.

Unit 5.

Ronald Inglehart & Christian Welzel (2006). Modernización, cambio cultural y democracia: la secuencia del desarrollo humano. Madrid: CIS-Siglo XXI.



Danillo Martuccelli & Jose Santiago (2017). El desafío sociológico hoy. Individuo y retos sociales. Madrid: CIS.

COMPLEMENTARY

Unit 1

Axel Honneth (1997). La lucha por el reconocimiento: por una gramática moral de los conflictos sociales. Barcelona: Crítica.

Rahel Jaeggi (2020). ¿Qué (si acaso algo) resulta falso en el capitalismo? Tres vías de crítica al capitalismo. Diálogo Filosófico, N° 108, pp. 387-413.

Hartmut Rosa (2016). Alienación y aceleración: hacia una teoría crítica de la temporalidad en la modernidad tardía. Buenos Aires: Katz.

Unit 2

Harold Garfinkel (2006). Estudios en etnometodología. Barcelona: Anthropos. Erving Goffman (2021). Estigma: la identidad deteriorada. Buenos Aires: Amorrortu.

Unit 3

Judith Butler (2023). El género en disputa: el feminismo y la subversión de la identidad. Barcelona: Paidós.

Ernesto Laclau y Chantal Mouffe (2004). Hegemonía y estrategia socialista: hacia una radicalización de la democracia. México: Fondo de Cultura Económica.

Gayatri Spivak (2003) ¿Puede hablar el subalterno? Revista Colombiano de Antropología e Historia, vol. 39 pp.297-364.

Unit 4

Pierre Bourdieu (1997). Razones prácticas: sobre la teoría de la acción. Barcelona: Anagrama.

Pierre Bourdieu y Loïc Wacquant (1992). Una invitación a la sociología reflexiva. Madrid: Siglo XXI . (Versión en valenciano: Pierre Bourdieu y Loïc Wacquant (1994). Per a una sociologia reflexiva. Barcelona: Herder).

Unit 5



Francois Dubet (2010). El nuevo régimen de las desigualdades: Solitarios e iguales. Gedisa
Eva Illouz (2002). El fin del amor: una sociología de las relaciones negativas. Madrid: Katz.

Dorothy E. Smith (1987). The Everyday World as Problematic. Boston: Northeastern University Press.