

General Sociology

Code: 102303
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2501572 Business Administration and Management	OT	4	0
2501573 Economics	OT	2	0
2501573 Economics	OT	3	2
2501573 Economics	OT	4	0

Contact

Name: Esperanza Bielsa Mialet
Email: Esperanza.Bielsa@uab.cat

Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Avi Astor
Miquel Fernández González

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course introduces Economics and Business Administration students to the sociological perspective, its main features and its basic conceptual and theoretical tools, with the objective of facilitating a reflection on the human social condition and an understanding of social phenomena and of the dynamics of continuity and change.

Skills

Business Administration and Management

- Capacity for independent learning in the future, gaining more profound knowledge of previous areas or learning new topics.
- Capacity for oral and written communication in Catalan, Spanish and English, which enables synthesis and oral and written presentation of the work carried out.
- Demonstrate initiative and work individually when the situation requires it.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the structure of institutions and the state, their evolution and the consequences of possible changes, to be able to make a positive contribution to the debate about the role they play in current society.

- Identify improvements in the internal management process to stimulate company productivity.
- Identify the economic agents that make up an economy, understanding how they have been interrelated to date, how they are currently interrelated and forecast futures according to new circumstances and their influence on a specific company.
- Select and generate the information necessary for each problem, analyse it and take decisions based on that information.
- Show motivation for carrying out quality work and sensitivity to the consequences for the environment and society.
- Value ethical commitment in professional practice.
- Work well in a team, being able to argue proposals and validate or reject the arguments of others in a reasoned manner.

Learning outcomes

1. A capacity of oral and written communication in Catalan, Spanish and English, which allows them to summarise and present the work conducted both orally and in writing.
2. Analyse the role of regulation in the workplace in Spain.
3. Apply sociological analysis to current social structures.
4. Assess ethical commitment in professional activity.
5. Assess the interrelationships between companies and activity.
6. Capacity to continue future learning independently, acquiring further knowledge and exploring new areas of knowledge.
7. Demonstrate initiative and work independently when required.
8. Demonstrate motivation regarding the quality of the work performed and sensitivity regarding the consequences on the environment and society.
9. Identify ways of improving labour relations.
10. Interpret the basic principles of sociology.
11. Select and generate the information needed for each problem, analyse it and make decisions based on this information.
12. Work as part of a team and be able to argue own proposals and validate or refuse the arguments of others in a reasonable manner.

Content

Part 1. The Sociological Perspective

Sociologists and sociology. Main features of the sociological perspective: curiosity, objectivity and the will to understand; unmasking tendency and relativization of social values. Society as a social construct and the notion of social facts. The relation between social, cultural, economic and political processes.

Part 2. Society

Human beings as social beings and the grounds of sociability. Society as a subjective reality. Primary and secondary socialization. Role theory. Social structure and structuration. Inequality and social stratification.

Part 3. Sociology as a Discipline

The great European classics: Marx, Durkheim, Weber; Simmel. The main themes of the classics, their theory of history and the suitability of their questions: social classes and alienation; power and authority; work and the division of labour; rationality and bureaucratic organizations; money, urban life and modernity.

Part 4. Contemporary Themes and Debates

Principal themes of contemporary sociology. Modernisation and individualisation. Precarious freedoms, uncertainty and reflexivity. The context of individualisation: flexible capitalism. Defining and periodising globalisation. Features of contemporary globalisation.

Methodology

Lectures.

Practical examples in the lecture room.

Seminars.

Individual and small group tutorials.

Reading of texts and work with audiovisual materials.

Student presentations and work with audiovisual materials.

Writing of essays on a set of readings and seminar presentations.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures and seminars	45	1.8	3, 1, 10
Type: Supervised			
Individual or small group meetings to resolve doubts and to supervise oral and written work	6	0.24	3, 1, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11
Type: Autonomous			
Study, reading of texts	63	2.52	3, 1, 7, 10, 8, 11, 4

Evaluation

The module will be assessed as follows:

1. Oral presentation to students (in small groups) of a text or audiovisual material. The organization, functioning and assessment criteria will be explained in the lectures and publicized through the virtual campus. Individual/ group work. 15% of the final mark.

2. Writing of original essays based on a chosen reading from a proposed list which will be provided in due course. The organization, working and assessment criteria will be explained in the lectures and disseminated through the virtual campus. Individual. 40% of the final mark.

3. Written examination. A written exam will take place at the end of the course. Individual. 45% of the final mark.

Please consider the following:

a) The smooth functioning of this course will depend on students presenting their work and delivering their essays on the set date.

b) The nature of the module and the method of assessment make regular attendance of lectures and seminars essential. Each lecturer will explain how attendance records are kept and the penalties for unjustified lack of attendance.

c) It is a requirement that students keep a copy of submitted work.

d) In order to be evaluated, it is necessary to participate in activities representing at least two thirds of the total mark for the course. If this condition is not fulfilled the mark will be **Not evaluable**.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the work of others as if it were your own. All written work must be your own work. You must not copy from other students, or from the published (or unpublished) work of others. Whenever you make use of books, articles, internet or other source material, you must make this clear by the appropriate use of references and, where a passage is cited word for word, by the use of quotation marks. **Plagiarism is a serious offence and is regarded in the same light as cheating on examinations. It will result in a mark of 0.**

Calendar of evaluation activities

The dates of the evaluation activities (midterm exams, exercises in the classroom, assignments, ...) will be announced well in advance during the semester.

The date of the final exam is scheduled in the assessment calendar of the Faculty.

"The dates of evaluation activities cannot be modified, unless there is an exceptional and duly justified reason why an evaluation activity cannot be carried out. In this case, the degree coordinator will contact both the teaching staff and the affected student, and a new date will be scheduled within the same academic period to make up for the missed evaluation activity." **Section 1 of Article 115. Calendar of evaluation activities (Academic Regulations UAB)**. Students of the Faculty of Economics and Business, who in accordance with the previous paragraph need to change an evaluation activity date must process the request by filling out an **Application for exams' reschedule**

https://eformularis.uab.cat/group/deganat_feie/application-for-exams-reschedul

Grade revision process

After all grading activities have ended, students will be informed of the date and way in which the course grades will be published. Students will also be informed of the procedure, place, date and time of grade revision following University regulations.

Retake Process

"To be eligible to participate in the retake process, it is required for students to have been previously been evaluated for at least two thirds of the total evaluation activities of the subject." **Section 3 of Article 112 ter. The recovery (UAB Academic Regulations)**. Additionally, it is required that the student to have achieved an **average grade of the subject between 3.5 and 4.9**.

The date of the retake exam will be posted in the calendar of evaluation activities of the Faculty. Students who take this exam and pass, will get a grade of 5 for the subject. If the student does not pass the retake, the grade will remain unchanged, and hence, student will fail the course.

Irregularities in evaluation activities

In spite of other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate, and in accordance with current academic regulations, *"in the case that the student makes any irregularity that could lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluation activity, it will be graded with a 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that can be instructed. In case of various irregularities occur in the evaluation of the same subject, the final grade of this subject will be 0"*. **Section 10 of Article 116. Results of the evaluation. (UAB Academic Regulations)**.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
-------	-----------	-------	------	-------------------

Essay	40%	20	0.8	3, 1, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 4
Oral presentation of a text or audiovisual material.	15%	12	0.48	3, 1, 6, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12, 4
Written examination	45%	4	0.16	2, 3, 5, 1, 9, 10

Bibliography

Basic bibliography

Peter Berger, *Invitation to Sociology*, Anchor Books, 1999.

List of readings and basic audiovisual materials: handbook, virtual campus and lectures.

Additional bibliography

Raymond Aron, *Main Currents in Sociological Thought*, Transaction Publishers, 1998.

Pierre Bourdieu and Loïc Wacquant, *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Anthony Giddens, *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*, Cambridge University Press, 1973.

C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*, Oxford University Press, 2000.

Bryan S. Turner, *Classical Sociology*. London, Sage, 1999.

List of readings and additional audiovisual materials: handbook, virtual campus and lectures.

Recommended textbooks

John J. Macionis and Ken Plummer, *Sociology: A Global Introduction*, 5th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2011.

Ken Plummer, *Sociology: The Basics*, Routledge, 2010.

Anthony Giddens, *Sociology*, 7th Edition, Polity, 2013.

Anthony Giddens and Philip K. Sutton, *Sociology: Introductory Readings*, 3rd Edition, Polity, 2010.

James Fulcher and John Scott, *Sociology*, 4rd Edition, Oxford University Press, 2011.

Charles Lemert, *Social Things*, 5th Edition, Rowman and Littlefield, 2012.