Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

2021/2022

Foundations of Sociology

Code: 106218
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2504235 Science, Technology and Humanities	FB	1	2

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

Prerequisites

No previous requirements

Objectives and Contextualisation

1. To understand the influence of science and technology on the evolution of Western societies, as well as the historical and social conditioning factors in scientific and technological creation.

2. To explain the functioning of scientific research. To show the social and cultural factors that have to do with the production of knowledge and technologies. To analyze science as a social institution.

To critically evaluate the potential capacity and limitations of science and technology as well as their effects on social life. To critically analyze the correspondence between social needs and scientific and technical development, valuing citizen information and participation as a way to exercise democratic control over it.

4. To reflect in a complex and global way on techno-scientific topics of rigorous actuality and social incidence.

Competences

- Identify the various philosophical, ethical and sociological conceptions of science and technology and recognise their evolution throughout history.
- Make critical use of digital tools and interpret specific documentary sources.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply the values of non-sexist knowledge reflectively, creatively and from a critical standpoint.
2. Distinguish between good and bad practice in relation to the management of sex-/gender-based inequalities.
3. Evaluate the contribution of sociology to the study of science and technology.
4. Identify the principal explanatory models of sociology.
5. Make critical, reflective use of the notions intrinsic to sociological thought.
6. Search for and select information sources, assess their importance, and use them in interpreting topics and issues of social interest.
7. Use information searching techniques to produce different types of scientific reports or monographs.
8. Work collaboratively and efficiently in teams.

Content

Block 1. Classical sociological thought

Topic 1. Introduction to sociological thought

Topic 2. Basic concepts and main debates in Sociology

Block 2. Sociology of knowledge and sociology of science

Theme 3. Introduction to the sociology of knowledge

Theme 4. Science as an institution and the sociology of error

Block 3. Science and Technology Studies

Topic 5. From the sociology of science to the sociology of scientific knowledge

Topic 6. Current perspectives on Science and Technology Studies

Methodology

The teaching methodology and the evaluation proposed in the guide may undergo some modification subject to the onsite teaching restrictions imposed by health authorities

Theoretical sessions in large groups where the contents of the course are presented.

Classroom practice sessions where texts and films will be worked on.

Autonomous work: reading of proposed texts, study and preparation of group work.

Tutorials: supervision sessions

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Practice classes	16	0.64	1, 3, 6, 2, 4, 5
Theory classes	33	1.32	1, 3, 2, 4, 5

Type: Supervised			
Tutorial	4	0.16	1, 3, 2, 4, 5
Type: Autonomous			
Information search	10	0.4	6
Personal work	55	2.2	1, 3, 6, 2, 4, 5
Review	10	0.4	1, 6, 5, 7
Teamwork	15	0.6	8

Assessment

EV1 Written exam on the first two blocks of the subject.

This evidence represents 40% of the total mark of the subject.

EV2 Review of a book to choose from a selection made by the lecturers. To be done individually.

This evidence represents 20% of the total mark of the subject.

EV3a Elaboration of a group essay on a topic to choose from a selection made by the lecturers.

This evidence represents 30% of the total mark of the subject.

EV3b Oral presentation of the group work.

This evidence represents 10% of the total mark of the subject.

Students will obtain a "Not assessed/Not submitted" course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place

In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools (original weighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives

Definition of subject passed: to have obtained a total of at least 5 points in the continuous evaluation.

Resit: students who, during the continuous evaluation, have made evidences with a weight equal to or greater than 2/3 of the total grade and have obtained a final grade lower than 5 points and higher or equal to 3.5 points, may opt for the resit process.

Group work and oral presentation are excluded from the resit process.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
EV1 Written examination	40%	1	0.04	1, 3, 4, 5
EV2 Book review	20%	1	0.04	1, 3, 6, 5, 7
EV3a Elaboration of a group essay	30%	5	0.2	1, 3, 6, 2, 4, 8, 5, 7
EV3b Oral presentation of the collective essay	10%	0	0	1, 3, 2, 8, 5

Bibliography

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Software

No specific software is required.