Sociology of Identity

Code: 101132
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500262 Sociology	OT	4	1

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)

Some groups entirely in English: No

Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes

Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This module offers a sociological perspective on identity and its paradoxes, examining the centrality of the concept in contemporary society as well as the main criticisms that have been made to its academic use. The module provides basic tools for relating identity to the social nature of human beings, on the one hand, and investigates the social construction of identity in its various manifestations, on the other. The module starts with an analysis of the link between individual and society through classical authors such as Mead, Goffman and Elias, to then focus on the notions of collective identity that emerge from the end of the decade of 1960 with identity politics. A third block analyses the main criticism of the concept of identity and the need to redefine it in the current context. Finally, a fourth block proposes as an alternative a reflection on non-identity centered on the figure of the stranger, borders and the practice of translation.

Competences

- Analysing the problems arising from the implementation of public policies and conflict situations by recognising the complexity of the social phenomena and political decisions affecting democracy, human rights, social justice and sustainable development.
- Applying the concepts and approaches of the sociological theory, specially the explanations of social inequalities between classes, between genders and between ethnic groups, to the implementation of public policies and to the resolution of conflict situations.
- Demonstrating a comprehension of the approaches of the sociological theory in its different aspects, interpretations and historical context.
- Describing social phenomena in a theoretically relevant way, bearing in mind the complexity of the involved factors, its causes and its effects.
- Developing self-learning strategies.
- Effectively communicating the basic analysis of social phenomena in an elementary level of English.
- Generating innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Searching for documentary sources starting from concepts.
- Students must be capable of managing their own time, planning their own study, managing the relationship with their tutor or adviser, as well as setting and meeting deadlines for a work project.

Learning Outcomes

1. Comparing the reading of cultural phenomena from several ideologies of the social reality of Spain and Catalonia.
2. Defining the sociological concepts that interpret the cultural phenomena.
3. Defining the underlying social phenomena of cultural policies and conflicts.
4. Developing self-learning strategies.
5. Distinguishing the explanations of cultural inequalities between classes, between genders and between ethnic groups that these actors take for granted.
6. Distinguishing the sociological concepts about culture adopted by the actors involved in these policies and conflicts.
7. Effectively communicating the basic analysis of social phenomena in an elementary level of English.
8. Explaining the social interpretations of culture according to these approaches.
9. Expressing the debates regarding these approaches, that refer to culture.
10. Generating innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
11. Relating the debates regarding these approaches, that refer to culture, with the historical context in which they emerged.
12. Relating the explanations of cultural inequalities with general theoretical and methodological debates.
13. Relating the theoretical approaches with debates about social order and action.
14. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
15. Searching for documentary sources starting from concepts.
16. Students must be capable of managing their own time, planning their own study, managing the relationship with their tutor or adviser, as well as setting and meeting deadlines for a work project.

Content

1. Introduction: Paradoxes of identity

2. Social being and self

Mead, socialization and self; Goffman, dramaturgy and negotiation of identity; Elias on identity: sociogenesis and psychogenesis; the body as a social instance.

3. Collective identity and identity politics

Politics of identity or politics of difference; multiculturalism and recognition; postcolonial perspectives on subalterm identities; trans identities.

4. Identity as a problem

Main criticisms of the concept of identity; postmodernism and the fragmentation of identities; flexible capitalism and identity; individualization and identity; hybrid identities; globalisation, mobility and identity; national and post-national identities.

5. Non-identity

The logic of identity; the stranger; borders; translation.

Methodology

Lectures.

Seminars.

Individual and small group tutorials.

Reading and presentation of texts.

Essay writing on a chosen topic.

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			
Lectures and seminars	39	1.56	2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 12, 14
Type: Supervised			
Individual or small group tutorials	8	0.32	15, 4, 10, 16, 14
Type: Autonomous			
Reading, essay writing, revising	70	2.8	15, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, 11, 13, 12, 14

Assessment

The module will be assessed as follows:

1) Seminar presentation on a text. The organization and assessment criteria will be explained in class and publicized through the virtual campus. Individual. 15% of the final mark.

2) Writing of an original essay, based on a chosen topic from a proposed list. Individual. 35% of the final mark.

3) Written examination. A written exam will take place at the end of the module. Individual. 50% of the final mark.

Please consider the following:

a) The nature of the module and the method of assessment make regular attendance of lectures and seminars essential.

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

c) The mark of 'Not evaluable ' means not having been assessed in one or in any of the three components mentioned above.

d) Students that obtain a rating equal to or above3.5and lower than 5 are entitled to participate in a retake exam, to be held shortly after the publication of the marks. Students who take this exam and pass, will get a grade of 5. If the student does not pass the retake, the grade will remain unchanged.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the work of others as if it were your own. All written work must be your own work. Whenever you make use of books, articles, internet pages or any other material, you must make this clear by the appropriate use of references and, where a passage is cited word by word, by the use of quotation marks. Plagiarism is a serious offence and is regarded in the same light as cheating on examinations. Plagiarism will result in a mark of 0, not being allowed to participate in the exam, and a global mark of 'Not evaluable'.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Essay	35%	20	0.8	15, 1, 7, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, 11, 13, 12, 14
Presentation	15%	10	0.4	15, 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14
Written examination	50%	3	0.12	15, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, 11, 13, 12, 14

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Supplementary bibliography

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Software

None.