

Consumption and Sustainability

Code: 103688
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500262 Sociology	OT	4	2

Contact

Name: Marc Barbeta Viñas
Email: marc.barbeta@uab.cat

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 is not

Objectives and Contextualisation

1. Knowledge and visualization of the characteristics of the consumer society in Spain and Catalonia.
2. Understand the theoretical contributions of consumer behavior
3. Analyze the relationships between class, gender, life cycle and consumption
4. Understand the limits of the current consumption model: Sustainability
5. Contextualize, the alternative theoretical perspectives.

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.
- Assessing the contributions of sociological approaches to the study of culture, education, interaction between society and environment, social policy, and work.
- 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 critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Generating innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Students must be capable of assessing the quality of their own work.

- 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. Defining the interaction society-environment from these approaches.
2. Defining the sociological concepts that interpret the interaction between society and the environment.
3. Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
4. Distinguishing the vision of society that these actors take for granted.
5. Expressing the epistemological assumptions that led to this interaction.
6. Generating innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
7. Relating the concepts methods and techniques of environmental sociology with general theoretical and methodological debates.
8. Relating them with the debates about order, social change and capitalism.
9. Relating these concepts and visions with the theoretical and methodological debates about society and environment.
10. Students must be capable of assessing the quality of their own work.
11. 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.
12. Using their analysis to reflect the social and environmental reality of Spain and Catalonia.

Content

- I. Introduction to consumption from a sociological perspective: consumption as a "total social phenomenon".
- II. General theory of the consumer society: genesis and structure of consumer societies.
 1. The formation of the consumer capitalist market and archetypal consumer models.
 - 1.1. The background of the consumer society.
 - 1.2. Neoclassical economic theory of demand and basic concepts of consumption analysis.
 - 1.3. The real structure of the market and creation of the consumption norm: oligopolization and transformation in the demand / consumption process.
- III. The consumer society in Catalonia and Spain.
 1. Process of historical configuration and development of the consumer society: phases and models of consumption.
 2. The role of brand / product images and advertising in consumer models.
- IV. Theoretical paradigms for the social investigation of consumption and advertising communication.
 1. Criticism of the economic theory of demand: the social construction of needs.
 2. Behaviorism and consumption: the brand / product as a signal.
 3. Psychoanalysis and consumption: the brand / product as a symbol, and desire.
 4. Genetic-structural theory: consumption as a social symbol.
 5. Cultural studies and consumption: consumption as a material culture.
 6. Structural linguistics and semiology of consumption: the brand / product as sign and signifier.
 7. Postmodern theories of consumption: the identity construction through consumption.
- V. Current debates in the sociology of consumption.
 1. The axes of structuring consumption and the context of economic crisis: class, gender and life cycle.
 2. Cultural consumption and the "omnivorousness" debate.
 3. Sustainable consumption trends.
 4. Emotions in consumption.
- VI. Investigating consumption: review of statistical sources on consumption and the use of social research techniques for the analysis of consumption.

Methodology

The sessions will combine a) theoretical presentations of a theoretical nature and b) text discussion seminars.

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			
Master Lessons	42	1.68	
Type: Supervised			
Tutoring students	3	0.12	
Type: Autonomous			
Reading articles, team work, presentation in seminars, papers	105	4.2	

Assessment

Students must submit the following evidence:

- 1) Individual written test. At the beginning of the course the guidelines for carrying out of a written test on the topics seen during the course will be given. It will be a short test/essay to be developed independently during certain days and must be delivered on the agreed day, towards the end of the course. The test/essay will raise critically, and with a review of the literature, some of the classic or current debates of the sociology of consumption.
- 2) Group work: students must carry out -in group- a brief empirical research on a phenomenon or object / brand of consumption previously chosen and agreed with the teacher. The work will be delivered at the end of the course and an oral presentation will be made in the last weeks of the course. At the beginning of the course the teacher will give the specific orientations of the work.
- 3) Brief assignments linked to practical activities of class: the alumnado will have to deliver the practical activities linked to the discussion of texts on consumption and publicity that will provide during the course.

Assessable activities that do not exceed a minimum of 5, must be repeated to pass the course.

Those students who request it, will be attended individually in the office or virtually, in order to give the relevant explanations to the correction of the tests and guide the possible recovery.

- 4) Definition of the Not Submitted: Do not present the set of individual works

In the event of plagiarism, the evaluation of the test will be 0'.

In accordance with article 117.2 of the UAB Academic Regulations, the evaluation of those students who have been enrolled before may consist of a single synthesis examination. The students who wish to be evaluated this way should contact the professor at the beginning of the semester.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Individual written test/essay	40%	0	0	10, 2, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 9, 7, 8, 12
Research project	40%	0	0	10, 2, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 9, 7, 8, 12
Short works linked to practical activities	20%	0	0	10, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12

Bibliography

- ALONSO L.E. (2017) "Consumo colaborativo: Las razones de un debate" *Revista Española de Sociología* RES nº26 pp 87-95
- ALONSO L. E. (1989), 'Proceso de trabajo y objeto de consumo. Apuntes para un análisis de su evolución conjunta', *Sociología del Trabajo*, 8, pp.59-80 .
- ALONSO L .E. (2009), *Prácticas económicas y economía de las prácticas. Crítica del posmodernismo liberal*, Madrid, Ed Catarata
- ALONSO L.E (2005) *La era del consumo*. Madrid Siglo XXI.
- ALONSO L. E., CONDE F. (1994), *Historia del consumo en España: Una aproximación a sus orígenes y primer desarrollo*, Madrid, Debate.
- ALONSO L. E., CALLEJO J. (1994) " Consumo e individualismo metodológico: Una perspectiva crítica" a *Política y Sociedad*, 16 pp111-134.
- ALONSO L. E.; FERNANDEZ C.; (2013) "Consumo y sociedad líquida en la obra de Zygmunt Bauman: una recapitulación crítica" en Alonso L.E.; Fernández C. Los discursos del presente. Un análisis de los imaginarios sociales contemporáneos. Madrid, Siglo XXI.
- ALONSO, L. E., FERNANDEZ, C. IBÁÑEZ, R. (coord.) (2020) *Estudios sociales sobre el consumo*. Madrid: CIS.
- ALONSO L.E. PÉREZ L.(2003) 'Problemas actuales en el estudio de la jubilación y la edades del trabajo: la perspectiva sociológica' *Revista del ministerio de trabajo y asuntos sociales*. nºExtra Seguridad social.
- ANDRES ORIZO F. (1977), *Las bases sociales del consumo en España*, Madrid, Confed. Española de Cajas de Ahorro.
- BAUDRILLARD J. (1969), *El sistema de los objetos*, Madrid, Siglo XXI.
- BAUDRILLARD J. (1987), *Crítica de la economía política del signo*, Madrid, Siglo XXI.
- BOCOCK R. (1993), *El consumo*, Madrid, Talasa Ediciones.
- BORRÀS CATALÀ V. (1998) *El consumo, un análisis sociológico*. Barcelona, Cedecs.
- BORRAS V. (2007), "Las desigualdades en el consumo a través del género" *RES* nº8 pp139-156.
- BAUMAN Z. (2007), *Vida de consumo*, Madrid, Fondo de Cultura Económica
- BOURDIEU P. (1991), *La distinción. Criterio y bases sociales del gusto*,. Altea, Taurus Humanidades.
- CASTILLO CASTILLO J. (1987), *Sociedad de consumo a la española*, Madrid, Eudema Actualidad
- CASTILLO CASTILLO J. (1988), 'La singular sociología de Thorstein Veblen: el caso de la condición femenina', *REIS*, 43, pp. 7-22.
- CORTINA A. (2002) *Por una ética del consumo*. Madrid, Taurus.
- CRUZ j. (2014) "El buen tono y la cultura del consumo" en Cruz J. *El surgimiento de la cultura burguesa*, Madrid, Siglo XXI.

- FEATHERSTONE M. (1992), *Consumer Culture and Postmodernism*, London, Sage.
- FERNANDEZ C. J.; HEIKKILÄ R. (2011) "El debate sobre el Omnivorismo Cultural. Un aproximación a nuevas tendencias en sociología del consumo" *Revista Internacional de Sociología* Vol 69 nº 3 pp 585-605
- FREIXENET M.(coord) (2011) *Sostenibilitas, Polítiques públiques des de el feminisme i l'ecologisme*. Barcelona, ICPS.
- GALBRAITH J. K. (1992), *La Sociedad Opulenta*, Barcelona, Ariel.
- GRANDE I. (2002) *El consumo de la tercera edad*. Madrid. Esic.
- GRIGNON C. PASERON J.P.(1992) Lo culto y lo popular. Miserabilismo y populismo en sociología y en literatura, Madrid, La piqueta.
- DURAN M^a A. (1988), *De puertas adentro*. Madrid, Instituto de la Mujer.
- IBAÑEZ j. (2012) " Publicidad la tercera palabra de dios" en Ibañez J. Por una sociología de la vida cotidiana" Madrid, Siglo XXI
- KLEIN N (2001) *No Logo, el poder de las marcas*. Barcelona, Paidós.
- KÖHN, J.; GOWDY, J.; HINTERBERGER, F.; STRAATEN, J.van der (1999) *Sustainability in Question. The Search for a Conceptual Framework*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- LEONINI L. (1990-91), 'A che servono le cose? A proposito di due contributi sui consumi', *Quaderni di Sociologia*, 29, pp. 168-178.
- LATOUCHE S. (2006) *La apuesta por el decrecimiento*. Barcelona, Icaria.
- LIPOVETSKY G. (1986), *La era del vacío*, Barcelona, Anagrama.
- LIPOVETSKY G. (1990), *El imperio de lo efímero*, Barcelona, Anagrama.
- MARAFIOTI R. (1988), *Los significantes del consumo. Semiología, medios masivos y publicidad*, Buenos Aires, Biblos.
- MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD Y CONSUMO (2000). *La tercera edad y el consumo*. Madrid. INC.
- PRADES, A.; HORLICK-JONES, T.;BARNETT, J.; CONSTANTIN, M.; ENANDER, A.; ESPLUGA, J.; KONRAD, W.; POUMADÈRE, M.; ROSENHEAD, J. (2013) "Shining a light on sustainability: making visible, and promoting policy reflection upon, knowledge about citizen's everyday environment-related behaviours". A: A. Martinuzzi and M. Sedlacko (eds.) *Knowledge Brokerage for a Sustainable Europe. Innovative tools for enhancing the connectivity of research and policy making on sustainable development issues*.(Springer book series Interdisciplinary Studies in Economics and Management).
- PRETECEILLE E. (1975), 'Besoins sociaux et socialisation de la consommation', *La pensée*, 180, pp. 22-60.
- PRETECEILLE E., TERRAIL, J. P. (1985), *Capitalism, consumption and needs*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell.
- PAHL J.(1990), 'Housedold speeding, personal speeding and the control of money in marriage', *Sociology*, 24, 1, pp. 119-138
- REQUENA M. 'Juventud y dependencia familiar en España'. *Estudios de juventud*. nº58/2.

SCHWART R. (2011) "La 'revolución industrial' en el hogar: tecnología doméstica y cambio social en el sxx" en Carrasco C.; Borderias T.; Torns T.; *El trabajo de cuidados. Historia, teoría y políticas*, Madrid Ed Catarata.

TAYLOR-GOOBY P. (1985), 'Personal Consumption and Gender', *Sociology*, 19, 2, pp. 273-284.

TERRAIL J-P (1975), 'Production des besoins et besoins de la production', *La pensée*, 180, pp. 6-21.

VEBLEN T. (1944), *Teoría de la clase ociosa*, Mexico, Fondo de Cultura Económica.

Software

None in particular.