

Sociology of Identity

Code: 101132
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Sociology	OT	4

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

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 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.
- 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. Explaining the social interpretations of culture according to these approaches.
8. Expressing the debates regarding these approaches, that refer to culture.
9. Generating innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
10. Relating the debates regarding these approaches, that refer to culture, with the historical context in which they emerged.
11. Relating the explanations of cultural inequalities with general theoretical and methodological debates.
12. Relating the theoretical approaches with debates about social order and action.
13. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
14. Searching for documentary sources starting from concepts.
15. 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 subaltern 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; translation.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
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Type: Directed

Lectures and seminars	39	1.56	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 11, 13
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Type: Supervised

Individual or small group tutorials	8	0.32	14, 4, 9, 15, 13
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Type: Autonomous

Reading, essay writing, revising	70	2.8	14, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 10, 12, 11, 13
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Lectures.

Seminars.

Individual and 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.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Essay	35%	20.5	0.82	14, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 10, 12, 11, 13
Presentation	15%	10	0.4	14, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13
Written examination	50%	2.5	0.1	14, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 10, 12, 11, 13

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. Individual. 35% of the final mark.

3) Written examination. Individual. 50% of the final mark.

To calculate the final mark, a minimum mark of 3 in each assessment component is required.

Please consider the following:

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

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

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

d) Students that obtain a rating equal to or above 3.5 and 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.

Single evaluation

Single evaluation will take place through a written examination at the end of the course. It will be necessary to answer the six exam questions (in the modality of continuous evaluation only two of the six questions need to be answered). 100% of the final mark.

The retake exam follows the same system as in the case of continuous evaluation.

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 for the essay and failing the course.

In this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is not allowed in any of its phases. Any assignment that includes fragments generated with AI will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and may result in a partial or total penalty in the grade for the activity, or more serious sanctions in severe cases.

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Supplementary bibliography

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Software

None.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	English	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	English	first semester	morning-mixed