

Social Anthropology

Code: 101136
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 is no prerequisites.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The subject Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology is a first approach to the study of human sociocultural diversity. Throughout the semester, the basic concepts and key themes of Social Anthropology will be explored.

The classic thematic areas will be discussed, the anthropological perspectives on difference and inequality and the study of social and cultural diversity.

Through the study of ethnographic cases that illustrate cultural diversity and highlight the contrasts and similarities between different societies.

students will gain a basic knowledge of the anthropological methodology and its ethnographic techniques that the subject offers.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Faced with the challenges that different societies face, in 2015 the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs address issues that affect different areas, from the eradication of poverty to the preservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

The ODS included in this subject are the following:

SDG 1: End poverty

SDG 5: Gender equality

ODS 10: Reduction of inequalities

ODS 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Competences

- 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.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.

Learning Outcomes

1. Defining the sociological concepts that interpret the cultural phenomena.
2. Developing self-learning strategies.
3. Distinguishing the underlying cultural phenomena of specific policies or conflicts.
4. Explaining the social interpretations of culture according to these approaches.
5. Relating the debates regarding these approaches, that refer to culture, with the historical context in which they emerged.
6. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.

Content

Topic 1. Social and Cultural Anthropology: Subjects, Methods, and Perspectives

Subtitle: What does anthropology study? How is it different from sociology?

Guiding questions:

- What are the main branches of anthropology?
- What does it mean to take an "anthropological perspective"?
- Why is fieldwork central to anthropological research?

Topic 2. Sociopolitical Classifications and the Construction of Otherness: Between Difference and Hierarchy

Subtitle: How are "the others" constructed? What effects do social categories have?

Guiding questions:

- How are people classified by race, ethnicity, gender, or culture?
- What does "construction of otherness" mean?
- How has inequality been naturalized over time?

Topic 3. Kinship and Social Organization: Bonds, Descent, and Alliances

Subtitle: Families, clans, and social ties-what is natural and what is cultural?

Guiding questions:

- What forms of kinship exist across societies?
- How are family and alliance relations constructed?
- How does kinship relate to power and social reproduction?

Topic 4. Economy and Modes of Subsistence: Exchange, Production, and Reciprocity

Subtitle: How is material life organized? What does a "human economy" look like?

Guiding questions:

- What types of exchange exist beyond the market?
- How does reciprocity operate in traditional and modern societies?
- What insights does anthropology offer on poverty or value?

Topic 5. Political Organization and Power: Authority, Control, and Resistance

Subtitle: Who rules, how, and why? Understanding power through anthropology

Guiding questions:

- What forms of leadership and governance exist?
- How is power legitimized in different cultural contexts?
- How are resistance and change expressed?

Topic 6. Religion, Rituals, and Systems of Belief: Meaning and Cultural Practices

Subtitle: Why do rituals matter? The social meaning of religion

Guiding questions:

- How does anthropology approach religion and ritual?
- What role do myths, symbols, and spiritual practices play?
- How is religiosity linked to collective identity?

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
<hr/>			
Type: Directed			
Discussion of written and audiovisual texts.	25	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Lectures with ICT support	30	1.2	1
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Type: Supervised			
Class exercises and discussions. Group project.	35	1.4	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
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Type: Autonomous			
Reading and text reviews and group project	60	2.4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
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Based on the idea that in the teaching and learning process the student take the leading role, active participation in class will be expected. The class method will include:

- Lectures on the topics of the program with ICT support.
- Reading and discussing specific chapters and articles in each section of the program.
- Viewing and discussing specific audiovisual materials in each section of the program.
- Class exercises carried out in small groups; discussion and presentation of group remarks, questions and conclusions.
- Group project. Students will be expected to work in small and cooperative working groups, focusing in one specific challenge in relation to issues studied in class. The project will be presented in class (groups and presentation calendar in the virtual campus)

15 minutes of a class will be reserved, within the calendar established by the center / degree, for the completion by the students of the surveys of evaluation of the performance of the teaching staff and of evaluation of the subject.

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

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Analytical essay	25%	0	0	2, 3, 5
Group work on synthesis of readings	25%	0	0	1, 3, 4, 5
Written exam	50%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Continuous assessment:

The evaluation of the subject will be carried out procedurally through several activities:

- Synthesis group work based on various readings: 25%
- Analytical essay based on the reading of a monograph: 25%
- Written exam on the content of the subject explained in the classroom: 50%

The final mark will be the average of the mark obtained in all the previous activities. Those who do not reach a grade of 5 will be considered suspended and will not be able to pass the subject.

At the time of carrying out each assessment activity, the teacher will inform the student of the grade obtained.

The student will receive the grade of "Not assessable" as long as he has not participated in any of the assessment activities.

The teaching staff has the right to require a minimum grade (which in no case will be lower than 5).

Unique assessment:

- The student is responsible for carrying out all the necessary procedures.

- The three tests will be given on the same day, when specified by the teacher
- The three tests will be: Exam (50%), individual work of synthesis (25%)
- In no case will the level of demand be lower than the continuous evaluation

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.

This subject allows the use of AI technologies exclusively for support tasks such as bibliographic or content-based searches, text correction or translations. The student must clearly (i) identify which parts have been generated using AI technology; (ii) specify the tools used; and (iii) include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and final outcome of the activity. Lack of transparency regarding the use of AI in the assessed activity will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade may be lowered, or the work may even be awarded a zero. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

Bibliography

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Software

No specific software required.

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	51	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(TE) Theory	51	Catalan	first semester	afternoon