

## **SOCIOLOGY**

Degree(s)	: Economics
Type	: Compulsory course unit
Curricular year/semester	: 2nd year / 1st Semester
ECTS / hours per week	: 6 ECTS / 3.5 Hours
Workload per week	: 1Theoretical/Practicalx2Hours+1Theoretical/Practicalx1.5Hours
Teacher responsible	: Professor João Carlos de Andrade Marques Graça

### **OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this course you should have:

- An understanding of the main sociological perspectives;
- An understanding of the most important classical and contemporary sociological theories;
- The ability to apply these perspectives to understand society generally, as well as to understand the causes and consequences of various social problems;
- The ability to critically consider the important role of social interaction in shaping our lives;
- The capacity to develop your "sociological imagination", applying a critical perspective to view various crosscutting social circles (family, school, workplace, hometown, country, etc.) with a greater understanding of individual, group and societal processes.
- The capacity to master the basic conceptual tools of sociological inquiry, including the ability to identify a sociological problem, to pose theoretical questions and engage with current debates, and to learn methods of data collection and presentation.
- The awareness to expand knowledge of specific events, groups, historical periods and economic, political, and social trends, focusing on subject areas that resonate with and expand your own interests.

### **PROGRAM**

- **Week 1:** The Sociological Lexicon. Some important Concepts. Sociology as the science of social paradoxes. What is "Sociological Imagination".

- **Week 2:** The rise of the sociological endeavour. Reacting against the contractual founding myths. The three revolutions and the shaping of a critical perspective.
- **Week 3:** The first sociological generation: Tocqueville, Comte and Marx. Defining a new discipline. Methodological Issues.
- **Week 4:** Basic antinomies. The “Gemeinschaft” discussion. Modernization and Anomie. The problems of power and inequality.
- **Week 5:** The “Turn of the Century Generation”: Social facts and Ideal Types. Durkheim vs. Weber. Causality between statistical regularities and uchronic reconstructions.
- **Week 6:** Religion and Society. Historical and functional analysis. Elementary forms and the elective affinities between capitalism and Protestantism.
- **Week 7:** The Microsociological turn: Affiliations, conflicts, social circles. Simmel and Modernity. The Tragedy of Culture and the problems of urban life. Prototypical social types.
- **Week 8:** Becoming American: The Rise of Sociology in the New World: From Pragmatism to Structural Functionalism. Parsons’ “Big theory” and Merton’s modesty. The Relativization of functional analysis.
- **Week 9:** The truth is not out there. The Day to day life and dramaturgy. The Presentation of Self and the Social Construction of Reality. Are Emotions mature for sociological analysis?
- **Week 10:** Closing the Gap: Economics seduction and the Rational Choice Paradigm. Coleman’s big picture. What is left to decide?
- **Week 11:** “Civilization and Kultur”. Social refinement, mimesis, and distinction. Macro approaches to today’s societies. Risk, Uncertainty, and Globalization.
- **Week 12:** The Frankfurt Children: Critical approaches to the study of late capitalism. A new type of Society?
- **Week 13:** Thinking Sociologically: 10 Social Problems waiting for 10 sociological answers given by eager students.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Recommended Bibliography:

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- COSER, Lewis (2003), *Masters of Sociological Thought: Ideas in Historical and Social Context*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Waveland Press.
- DURKHEIM, Emile (1997a), *The Division of Labor in Society*, Free Press.
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- GIDDENS, Anthony, (1973), *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
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- GOFFMAN, Erving (1959), *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, Anchor.
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- MARX, Karl (1978), *The Marx Engels Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Robert C. Tucker (ed), W.W. Norton.
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- WEBER, Max (1978), *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, University of California Press.
- WEBER, Max (2003), *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Dover Publications.