Universidad de Navarra

Sociology (RRII)

Teaching guide 2026-27

PRESENTATION

Brief descritpion: Obtain some methodological, theoretical and conceptual tools to study and better understand the society in which we live.

- **Degree and School**: International Relations - School of Law
- **Course and Semester**: 1st Course, Second Semester
- **Course Category**: Basic
- **Number of credits under the European Credit Transfer System**: 6 ECTS
- **Teaching Language**: English
- **Professor**: Elena Álvarez
- **Schedule and location**: see "Contact" details

Lessons:

- Thursdays 10:00 - 11:30. Amigos Building, Floor 0, Room 01
- Fridays 08:00 - 09:30. Amigos Building, Floor 0, Room 10

To ensure the successful running of classes, the use of electronic devices is not permitted during lessons.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (Competencies)

CB1 That students have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of an area of study which starts from a general secondary education base and is usually at a level which, while relying on textbooks, is not yet at the end of the course general secondary education, and is usually at a level which, while relying on advanced textbooks, also includes some aspects which involve knowledge from textbooks, but also includes some aspects involving knowledge from the cutting edge of their field of study.

CB3 Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make judgements that include reflection on relevant social, scientific and ethical topics.

CB4 Students are able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

CB5 Students have developed those learning skills necessary to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy.

CG04 Use English appropriately according to the scientific and academic terminology of the field of International Relations.

CG07 Critically appraise the international reality and its specific problems.

CE05 Know and understand the theories and conceptions of international relations in historical perspective.

CE20 Evaluate international relations and each of its sociological, historical, legal, political and economic components.

PROGRAM

The program may be subject to minor variations depending on the development of the course.

- Unit 1: Introduction. The concepts of individual, group and society. Sociological questions and methods
- Unit 2: Classical Theoretical Approaches to Sociology: Comte, Durkheim, Weber, Simmel
- Unit 3: Society, culture, morality and religion
- Unit 4: The process of socialization. The role of the family and groups.
- Unit 5: Conflict, power and social change.
- Unit 6: Capitalism and its evolution to Globalization.
- Unit 7: Main Social Changes in the Contemporary World: sexual revolution, post-secularization, technology and media.
- Unit 8: Risks and Values of an Individualised Society. Thinking new models: multiculturalism, communitarism, cosmopolitatism.

FORMATION ACTIVITIES

a. Lectures

b. Debates/discussions/commentaries

Some classes will be devoted to debating about topics of interest and to commenting a text or video.

c. Reading tests

d. Tutoring

Students may voluntarily arrange a meeting with the professor in order to solve the doubts and concerns that might rise in relation to the course.

e. Assessment (see corresponding section)

f. Autonomous personal study

ASSESSMENT

The common criteria of assessment, valid for the two official calls, are the following:

- Assistance and participation in class: 10%
- Readings and commentaries: 20% - Four readings are proposed during the semester. Students are required to submit a reading test for each reading. Each reading test will be scheduled during the lesson time and announced in ADI in advance. The texts will be uploaded in the folder "Teaching Materials".
- Final Exam: 70% In order to pass the course the students have to pass this exam in one of the two sessions.

Readings for the Reading Tests (provisional):

- Reading 1: Bauman, "Sociology: What For?", chapter 1 in *Thinking Sociologically*.
- Reading 2: Mills, "The promise", chapter in *The Sociological Immagination*".
- Reading 3: Simmel, "On Fashion".
- Reading 4: Beck, "Drift" in *The Corrosion of Character*, chapter 1

Format of the exam:

- Test on the general contents: 10 questions, close-formated, 1 correct among 4 proposals, wrong answers do not deduct points.
- Short essay: comment in-depth a social resource

ORDINARY SESSION

- May 2026 - to be scheduled.

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

Retakers will keep the grades they obtained during the semester for participation and in the reading tests (30%). The exam will follow the same model as that of May, in the number and style of the questions. It will count for the 70% of the final grade, and it still will be necessary to pass this exam to pass the course.

- June - to be scheduled

REPEATERS

Repeaters will have to carry out all the tasks and submit all the readings again.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Students with special educational needs must contact the Academic Coordination Office of the (faculty/school) in advance to obtain the corresponding authorization for any adaptations (for example, extra time in exams). The student must then send this authorization to the professor. It is recommended that this procedure be completed at the beginning of the semester.

ATTENTION: Please note that any attempt at fraud, copying, plagiarism, or other irregular behavior constitutes a **serious infraction**, as set forth in Title IV "Rules of Academic Discipline for Students" within the System of Rules on Coexistence at the University of Navarra.

CONTACT

Dr. Elena Álvarez Álvarez (ealvareza@unav.es)

- Office n. 2491 Building Ismael Sánchez Bella. Floor 2.
- Availability: please contact by mail.

APPLIABLE REGULATION

Every activity during the course is subjected to the General Rules and Regulations of the University of Navarre.

More specifically, any issue that will occur during the course will be solved according to the following:

- System of Rules of Coexistence at the University of Navarre
- General Rules and Regulations about Assessment
- Rules and regulations about permanence in the official programs of study Degree

BIBLIOGRAPHY

General Bibliography

Universidad de Navarra

- Macionis, John J. (2018). Sociology. Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 16th ed. (Global edition). Only chapters 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 23 and 24. Find this book in the Library
- Ritzer, George (ed.) (2007). *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Oxford: Blackwell. Only the voices about authors indicated during the lessons and uploaded in the virtual campus.

Texts for Readings

- First reading text: chapter 1 ("Sociology - What For") from Z. Bauman, *Thinking Sociologically*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1990.
- Second reading text: chapter 1 ("The promise") from C. Wright Mills, The sociological imagination, Oxford University Press, 2000 [1959]. Find this book in the Library
- Third reading text: pp. 101-122 (both included) from G. Simmel, *Sociology: Inquiries into the Construction of Social Forms*, Brill, 2009 [1908]. Find this book in the Library
- Fourth reading text: chapter 1 ("Drift") from Richard Sennet, *The Corrosion of Character: the personal consequences of work in the new capitalism*, W. W. Norton & Company, 1998. Find this book in the Library
- Fourth reading text: pp. 35-50 (both included) from Ulrich Beck, Sage, 1992 [1986].

Primary Sources

Weber, M. *Max Weber's "Science as a Vocation."* Ed. Peter Lassman, Irving Velody, and Herminio Martins. This edition first published in 2015. London: Routledge, 2015. Print. (Find it in the Library)

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Project Gutenberg, 2010. Print. (Find it in the Library. Available online)

Weber, M. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. (Find in the Library)

Durkheim, E. Suicide. (Find it in the Library)

Simmel, G. The Metropolis and the Mental Life (Find it online)

Secondary Sources

- Ashley, D., & Orenstein, D. M. (2005) *Sociological Theory: Classical Statements*, Boston: Allyn & Bacon. Find this book in the Library. Find this book in the Library
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- Bauman, Z. (2015) *Liquid Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity. Find this book in the Library
- Beck, U. (1992) [1986] *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*, London: Sage. Find this book in the Library
- Calhoun, C. (2002). *Classical Sociological Theory (Wiley Blackwell Readers in Sociology)* (1st ed.). London: John Wiley & Sons. Find it in the Library
- Giddens, A. (1982) '*Profiles and Critiques in Modern Social Theory*', in *Profiles and Critiques in Modern Social Theory*, Polity Press, chapter 4 (also available in *American Journal of Sociology* 81, (4):703-729). Find this book in the library
- Giddens, A. (1996) 'Four Myths in the History of Social Thought', in *In Defense of Sociology: Essays, Interpretations and Rejoinders*, Polity Press, chapter 7. Find this book in the Library
- Giddens, A. (2002) *Runaway World : How Globalisation Is Reshaping Our Lives*. [2nd ed.]. London: Profile Books Ltd. Print. (Library. Available online)
- Hochschild, A. (2012) *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*. Berkeley, Los Angeles: University of California Press. Find this book in the Library

- Honneth A, Hartmann M (2006) 'Paradoxes of capitalism'. *Constellations* 13(1):41–58. Find this paper in the Library
- Janoski T, & Lepadatu D (2014) *Dominant divisions of labor: models of production that have transformed the world of work*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Find this book in the Library
- Illouz, E. (2008) *Saving the Modern Soul. Therapy, Emotions, and the Culture of Self-Help*, Berkeley: University of California Press. Find this book in the Library
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- Mazlish, B. (1989) *A New Science: The breakdown of connections and the birth of sociology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. Find this book in the Library
- Pampel, Fred C. (2007), *Sociological lives and ideas: an introduction to the classical theorists*, New York: Worth Publishers, 2nd ed. Find this book in the Library
- Ritzer, G., & Stepnisky, J. (Eds.) (2011) *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists*, 2 Volume Set. New York: John Wiley & Sons. (especially volume 1) Find this book in the Library
- Royce, E. (2015). Classical Social Theory and Modern Society: Marx, Durkheim, Weber.Find this book in the Library
- Sennett, R. (2006) *The culture of the new capitalism*, New Have: Yale University Press. Find this book in the Library