Universidad de Navarra

Sociology

Guía docente 2026-27

PRESENTATION

- **Degree:** Degree in Economics + Leadership and Governance
- **Module and field**: Módulo 7: Optativas Materia 7.2: Optativas Específicas no oficiales
- **Type of subject:** Required (OB)
- **Name**: Sociology
- **ECTS**: 3
- **Year**: 2 year, 1 semester
- **Instructor**: Elena Álvarez (ealvareza@unav.es)
- **Language**: English
- **Schedule and location**: see "Contact" details

Lessons:

- Tuesdays 09:00 - 11:00. Amigos Building, Floor 0, Room 09

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

Description

In this course you will be introduced to the basic concepts and theories of Sociology. The goal is to obtain some methodological, theoretical and conceptual tools to study and better understand the society in which we live.

You will learn to think sociologically, i.e. to apply a sociological perspective to the world around you, recognizing the crucial links between individuals and the society in which they live.

This course is meant for people in non-Sociology degrees. Thus, particular emphasis will be placed on making the theories and concepts pertinent to the world we live in. Attendance is highly encouraged, and the students are expected to actively participate in class discussions.

COMPETENCIES

SSOP11

Acquiring principles of leadership, argumentation, and/or communication that allow for navigating complex and globalized economic environments.

SSOP12

Acquiring basic principles of philosophy and understanding their relationship with economics in a globalized environment.

SSOP13

Acquiring basic knowledge of law and understanding its relationship with economics in a globalized environment.

SSOP14

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Acquiring basic principles of politics and understanding their relationship with economics in a globalized environment.

SSOP15

Acquiring basic principles of international relations and understanding their relationship with economics in a globalized environment.

PROGRAM (possibly subject to minor changes)

The course follows three pillars of the study of sociology, which is why it is structured in three large areas: Theories, methods, and reflexivity. For a detailed program, see the schedule.

Course structure:

1. Introduction to sociology

(Critical thinking// Sociological imagination // Structure and agency // Reflexivity and worldview)

2. Introduction to classical social theory

(Modernity // August Comte // Karl Marx // Max Weber // Émile Durkheim // Georg Simmel)

3. The process of socialization - Dealing with some contemporary issues

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

- 10% Attendance and participation in class
- 20% Reading tests, debates and other activities: 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".
- 70% Final exam: passing the final exam is compulsory to pass the course. Students have two calls (ordinary and extraordinary).

Possible readings for the reading tests

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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.

ORDINARY SESSION

- Final Exam: 5 December 2026, Amigos Building, Room 4-5: 12:00 - 14:00

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

- The score obtained in the continuous assessment during the course will be kept.
- This call will take place in June and it is to be confirmed.

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 and office hours

Dra. Elena Álvarez (ealvareza@unav.es)

- Ismael Sánchez Bella Building, 2nd Floor, Office n. 2490
- I am very willing and happy to meet with each one of you. If you have any problem whatsoever, please come and speak to me after class or send me an email to set up an appointment.

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 AND RESOURCES

Selected pages from the following books as indicated in the program:

Mills, C. Wright .*The Sociological Imagination*. Fortieth anniversary edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. Print. (Find it in the Library. Available online)

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)

Beck, U., & Beck-Gernsheim, E. (1995). *The normal chaos of love*. Polity Press. Find it in the library.

Cabanas, E., & Illouz, E. (2019). *Manufacturing happy citizens : how the science and industry of happiness control our lives.* English edition. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

Supplementary material

Edward Royce, *Classical Social Theory and Modern Society: Marx, Durkheim, Weber*, 2015. Find it in the Library

Bauman, Z. (2000). *Liquid Modernity*. Polity Press. Find it in the Library

Macionis, John J. *Sociology*. Sixteenth edition, Global edition. Harlow, England: Pearson, 2017. Online. Find it in the Library

Calhoun, C. (2002). *Classical Sociological Theory (Wiley Blackwell Readers in Sociology)* (1st ed.). John Wiley & Sons. Find it in the Library

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)