

COURSE GUIDE

Last updated date: 17/06/2021  
Fecha de aprobación: 17/06/2021

**Contemporary Sociological Theory**

|                                  |                                   |                    |                                  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Grado (Bachelor's Degree)</b> | Bachelor's Degree in Sociology    | <b>Branch</b>      | Social and Legal Sciences        |
| <b>Module</b>                    | Teoría y Fundamentos Sociológicos | <b>Subject</b>     | Teoría Sociológica Contemporánea |
| <b>Year of study</b>             | 3 <sup>o</sup>                    | <b>Semester</b>    | 1 <sup>o</sup>                   |
| <b>ECTS Credits</b>              | 6                                 | <b>Course type</b> | Compulsory course                |

**PREREQUISITES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is advisable to have completed at least a course on Classical and Modern Sociological Theory.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT (According to the programme's verification report)**

- New sociological notions for the analysis of social reality.
- Sociology in the 20th Century. The 70s: rifts and pluralism.
- Microsociology and macrosociology: theoretical integration of the macro and micro levels.
- Other relevant theories.
- Recent theoretical developments.
- Tools and sources for the gathering of sociologically significant information.

**SKILLS**

**GENERAL SKILLS**

- CG01 - Capacidad de análisis y síntesis
- CG03 - Habilidades informática relativas al ámbito de estudio
- CG08 - Capacidad para trabajar en equipo
- CG10 - Capacidad para atender a la diversidad y la multiculturalidad
- CG12 - Compromiso ético
- CG13 - Compromiso con la igualdad de género
- CG14 - Compromiso con el respeto a los derechos humanos y la no discriminación
- CG15 - Capacidad de aprendizaje autónomo
- CG22 - Capacidades en reconocer el carácter global y local de los fenómenos sociales
- CG24 - Capacidades en reconocer la complejidad de los fenómenos sociales

**SUBJECT-SPECIFIC SKILLS**



- CE01 - Conocer los principales conceptos y generalizaciones sobre la sociedad humana y sus procesos
- CE02 - Aprendizaje de la historia, de la teoría y sus principales escuelas hasta la actualidad.
- CE11 - Conocer la evolución de las sociedades contemporáneas y de sus movimientos sociales y políticos
- CE14 - Habilidades en la búsqueda de información secundaria en las diferentes fuentes (instituciones oficiales, bibliotecas, internet, etc.).
- CE20 - Capacidades en reconocer la complejidad de los fenómenos sociales.
- CE27 - Capacidades para definir, localizar y contactar la población objeto de integración social.
- CE28 - Capacidades para identificar y medir factores de vulnerabilidad social y procesos conflictivos.
- CE34 - Capacidad de relacionar los conocimientos de Sociología y los de otras disciplinas afines.
- CE35 - Actitud crítica frente a las doctrinas y las prácticas sociales.
- CE37 - Actitud de compromiso frente a los problemas sociales y culturales.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students enrolled in the course should be able to:

- Understand the key tenets of contemporary sociological theory.
- Construe social reality through sociological theory.
- Acknowledge the social complexity of contemporary society.
- Develop teamwork skills.

## PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### THEORY SYLLABUS

1. The Modernity / Post-Modernity Debate.
2. Globalization, Risk and Reflexivity.
3. The theoretical integration of action and structure: Pierre Bourdieu, Anthony Giddens, Jürgen Habermas.
4. Social action: Alain Touraine.
5. Manuel Castells: the Informational Society.
6. Ulrich Beck: Risk Society.
7. Niklas Luhmann: the realm of social systems. Theory as a scandal.
8. Gianni Vattimo and Richard Rorty: the philosophy of Post-Modernity.
9. Zygmunt Bauman: the transformation of Modernity.
10. Saskia Sassen: cities and social transformation.
11. Byung-Chul Han: the Burnout and Transparency Society.

### PRACTICAL SYLLABUS

Weekly seminars will be conducted by the students on the main topics and authors addressed in the course:



- 1. The Modernity / Post-Modernity Debate.
- 2. Globalization, Risk and Reflexivity.
- 3. The theoretical integration of action and structure: Bourdieu, Giddens, Habermas.
- 4. Social action: Touraine.
- 5. M. Castells: the Informational Society.
- 6. U. Beck: Risk Society.
- 7. N. Luhmann: the realm of social systems. Theory as a scandal.
- 8. G. Vattimo and R. Rorty: the philosophy of Post-Modernity.
- 9. Z. Bauman: the transformation of Modernity.
- 10. S. Sassen: cities and social transformation.
- 11. Byung-Chul Han: the Burnout and Transparency Society.

## RECOMMENDED READING

### ESSENTIAL READING

- P. Baert and F. Carreira da Silva. Social Theory in the Twentieth Century and Beyond. Polity Press.
- C. Calhoun et al. (eds.) Contemporary Sociological Theory. Wiley-Blackwell.
- A. Elliott. Contemporary Social Theory: An Introduction. Routledge.
- The Polity Reader in Social Theory. Polity Press.
- A. Callinicos. Social Theory: A Historical Introduction. Polity Press.
- H. Joas and W. Knöbl. Social Theory. Twenty Introductory Lectures. Cambridge University Press.

### COMPLEMENTARY READING

All the original works by the authors featured in the syllabus.

## TEACHING METHODS

- MD01 Lección magistral/expositiva
- MD02 Sesiones de discusión y debate
- MD03 Resolución de problemas y estudio de casos prácticos
- MD07 Seminarios
- MD09 Análisis de fuentes y documentos
- MD10 Realización de trabajos en grupo
- MD11 Realización de trabajos individuales

## ASSESSMENT METHODS (Instruments, criteria and percentages)

### ORDINARY EXAMINATION DIET

- Final written exam (50% of the final score).
- Preparation, presentation and coordination of a reading seminar on one of the authors or works discussed in the course, including a proposal for the empirical application of a specific theory (40% of the final score). In order to participate in this activity,



you **must** sign up, during the course's first month, for the coordination of a specific seminar, and attend all the scheduled seminars.

- Discussion of a book suggested by the lecturer, and subsequent interview with its author (10% of the final score).

#### EXTRAORDINARY EXAMINATION DIET

Final written exam including applied work on a short reading in sociological theory.

#### SINGLE FINAL ASSESSMENT (evaluación única final)

If you cannot attend the course sessions, you are entitled to a final written exam, which you should apply for (<https://sede.ugr.es/>) during the first two weeks of the course or the first two weeks after registering. The exam will include five questions about A. Elliott's Contemporary Social Theory.

