

Theories and concepts in sociology

4.00 credits

Ipols1234

2023

30.0 h

Q1

Teacher(s)	Zune Marc ;	
Language :	French	
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve	
Main themes	This course will approach the most familiar issues in Sociology and Anthropology from the point of view of action analysis. Particular attention is given to the following topics: 1. action within interpersonal interaction - social construction of space (frontstage, backstage, barriers) - social construction of time (time lived, temporal metrics, speaking turns, etc.) - role adoption and self-presentation - meetings, shared knowledge, context 2. Group action: - birth, sexuality, kinship, marriage, death - socialisation: learning the rules, habitus, relationship between culture and personality etc Organisational theories: strategies, power (legitimacy and processes), identity (professional, family, etc.), regulation - Technical mediation - conformity, deviance, stigmatism 3. Social action: - social structures: classes, social status, social stratification - technical relations to nature and division of labour - Theories of economic exchange: gifts, markets, distribution, exploitation, embedding - Theories of the state (stateless societies, forms of legitimacy, elitism, pluralism, etc.) - Theories of culture and religion (myths, totemism, standard sociological theories of the phenomenon of religion, etc.) - social change: class struggles, social movements - theories of history (evolutionism, diffusionism, historical particularism, etc.) 4. Epistemology: - the debate on explaining vs. understanding (broad outline) - the defining features of Sociology and Anthropology as compared to other disciplines - sociological and anthropological paradigms	
Learning outcomes	 At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to : Whereas the first year BAC 1 course introduces students to Sociology and Anthropology through social issues typical of modern societies, this second year BAC 2 course aims instead to give students theoretical and conceptual skills (at a mid-level of abstraction and systematicity) in both disciplines. In particular, students are expected to develop: - an understanding of the major theoretical issues in Sociology and Anthropology: power, culture, economics, social integration, socialisation, change etc - an ability to analyse social action on a number of (micro, meso, macrosociological) levels - a basic ability to place the concepts within a wider range of possible theories. 	
Evaluation methods	The evaluation is divided into 3 parts: (1) Submission of 5 "small works" during the year and a cross-sectional analysis. This corresponds to a continuous evaluation and is valued at 5 out of 20 points. The "small works" must be submitted by the specified dates via Moddle. Since they are subject to collective correction during the year, the work can be improved but not postponed. This portfolio is valued for the first and possible second session. (2) a first part of the exam on the course content (10 points out of 20) (3) a second part of the exam dealing with in-depth readings (5 points out of 20) A minimum of 10/20 on the first part of the course content exam is required to pass, and a minimum of 13/20 on the same part to obtain a grade, once the scores of the different parts are aggregated.	
Teaching methods	Presentations, analysis of empirical materials, completion of appropriation work by students	
Content	The course "Theories and Concepts in Sociology" aims to help students better understand the processes of conceptualization and theorization in sociology. The course is based on three parts: (1) a first part aims to develop the "sociological look" based on empirical investigations that have led to innovative conceptualizations, (2) a second part develops the fundamental sociological theorizations proposed by Durkheim, Weber and Marx, and (3) a third part addresses more contemporary conceptualizations and theorizations.	
Inline resources	See the Moodle page of the course	
Other infos	Course entry requirements: Socio-anthropologie des mondes contemporains (ex LESPO1113)	
Faculty or entity in charge	ESPO	

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)					
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes	
Minor in Human and Social Sciences	MINHUSO	4		٩	
Bachelor in Human and Social Sciences	HUSO1BA	4		٩	
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology	SOCA1BA	4		٩	
Minor in Sociology and Anthropology	MINSOCA	4		٩	