

Code: 102303  
ECTS: 6

Degree	Year	Semester
950 Business Administration	4	1
952 Economics	4	1

**Contact**

Name (coordinator): Esperança Bielsa

E-mail: Esperanza.Bielsa@uab.cat

Department: Sociologia

**Language**

English

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites.

**Objectives**

This course introduces Economics and Business Administration students into a sociological perspective, its main features and its basic conceptual and theoretical tools, with the objective of facilitating a reflection on the social condition of human beings and an understanding of social phenomena and of the dynamics of permanence and change.

**Competences**

- Oral and written communication skills and the ability to summarize and present work.
- Ability to continue learning autonomously in the future, deepening acquired knowledge and initiating new areas of knowledge.
- Demonstrate initiative and work autonomously when required.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the structure of institutions and the state, its future evolution and the consequences of possible changes to constructively contribute to the debate on the role they play in present day society.
- Identify the economic agents in an economy and understand how they have interrelated up to now, their present interrelations and predict future behaviour in function of new circumstances and of their influence in a concrete firm.
- Show motivation for the quality of work done and sensibility towards its consequences for the environment and society.
- Select and produce the necessary information for each problem, analyse it and make decisions on the basis of this information.
- Value the ethical commitment in professional exercise.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Apply sociological analysis to the social structures of the present.
2. Oral and written communication skills in English, Catalan and Spanish that allow to summarise and to effectively present work orally and in writing.
3. Ability to continue learning autonomously in the future, deepening acquired knowledge and initiating new areas of knowledge.
4. Demonstrate initiative and work autonomously when required.
5. Interpret the basic principles of sociology.
6. Show motivation for the quality of work done and sensibility towards its consequences for the environment and society.
7. Select and produce the necessary information for each problem, analyse it and make decisions on the basis of this information.
8. Value the ethical commitment in professional exercise.

## Contents

### Part 1. The Sociological Perspective

Sociologists and sociology. Main features of the sociological perspective: curiosity, objectivity and the will to understand; debunking and relativization of social facts. Partiality and autonomy of the sociological perspective.

### Part 2. Society

Nature and culture: human beings as social beings and the grounds of sociability. Social structure, social action and interaction; the routinization of experience and the anonymization of social relations; role theory. The reality of everyday life and the world taken for granted. Sociology, history and biography.

### Part 3. Sociology as a Discipline

Birth of sociology. Comte's sociology and positivism. The great European classics: Marx, Durkheim, Weber; Freud and sociology. The great themes of the classics, their theory of history and the suitability of their questions: social classes; power and authority; work and the division of labour; rationality and bureaucratic organizations.

### Part 4. The Socialization Process

Society as a subjective reality. Cultural models, learning and internalization. Primary and secondary socialization. Socialization, construction and preservation of identity. 'Normality' and social 'deviance'.

### Part 5. Institutionalization

Society as an objective reality. Roles and routines. Concept of institution. Objectivation, interpretation and justification of reality: the concept of legitimation. Features of institutions.

## Methodology

- Lectures.
- Practical examples in the lecture room.
- Seminars.
- Individual tutorials and seminars with reduced groups.
- Reading of texts and work with audiovisual materials.
- Student presentations and work with audiovisual materials.
- Writing of two essays on set readings and the written notes of the seminar presentation.

## Learning activities and outcomes

Activities	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Lectures and seminars	43	1.72	1, 2, 5
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Individual or small group meetings to resolve doubts and to supervise oral and written work	8	0.32	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>Type: Self-study</b>			
Study, reading of texts	63	2.52	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

## Assessment

The module will be assessed as follows:

**1. Oral presentation to students of a text or audiovisual material.** The organization, functioning and assessment criteria will be explained in the lectures and publicized through the virtual campus. Group work. 10% of the final mark.

**2. Writing of two original essays on set readings.** The first essay will be based on the reading of *Invitation to Sociology* by Peter L. Berger. The second will be based on a chosen reading from a proposed list which will be provided in due course. The organization, working and assessment criteria will be explained in the lectures and disseminated through the virtual campus. Individual. 40% of the final mark.

**3. Written examination.** A written exam will take place at the end of the course. Individual. 50% of the final mark.

It is a requirement that the student keeps a copy of the submitted work.

A qualification of 'No presentat' indicates that the student has not participated in any of the three above.

Students who obtain grades equal or higher than 4 and below 5 are entitled to an additional evaluation in order to pass (with a maximum mark of 5), to take place shortly after the publication of marks.

The good running of the course will depend on students presenting their work and delivering their essays on the set dates.

The nature of the module and the method of assessment make regular attendance to lectures and seminars essential. Unjustified attendance below a minimum of 75% of the sessions will be penalised with 3 points (3/10), to be deducted from the final mark.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the work of others as if it were your own. All written work must be your own work. You must not copy from other students, or from the published (or unpublished) work of others. Whenever you make use of books, articles, internet or other source material, you must make this clear by the appropriate use of references and, where a passage is cited word for word, by the use of quotation marks. **Plagiarism is a serious offence and is regarded in the same light as cheating in examinations. It is likely to result in a mark of 0 and to lead to failure for the whole module.**

### Assessment activities

Activities	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Written examination	50%	4	0.16	1, 2, 5
Two written essays on set readings	40%	20	0.8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Presentation on readings and audiovisual materials	10%	12	0.48	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

### References

Ray, Debraj 1998 *Development economics*. Princenton University Press

Perkins,D; Radelet,S., Lindauer,D.L. 2006 *Economics of Development* Norton Co,

Stiglitz J.E. 2002, 2002, *Globalization and Its Discontents*,. Norton &

Meier,G. Rauch,J. 2005 *Leading Issues in Economic Development*. Oxford University Press

Cypher J. & Dietz J., 2004 *The process of Economic Development*. Routledge

Sachs J , 2008 *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* Penguin Press

Sachs J , 2005, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* Penguin Press

Simon D 2006 *Fifty Key Thinkers on Development* Routledge Key Guides

Duflo, E *Poor Economics*, co-authored with Abhijit V. Banerjee

Easterly, William, *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, MIT Press, Cambridge, 2001