UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Introduction to Social Sciences

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Institute of Psychology and Educational Sciences

2. Course

PSYCHOLOGY

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Introduction to Social Sciences (20306)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

1st

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	30,00
Tutorial Guidance:	

9. ECTS Credits

3,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor MICHEL GUSTAVE JOSEPH BINET

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

-The main objective is the study of some general concepts and fundamental perspectives of the social sciences, complemented by the approach of classic and current problems, from the contribution of a group of authors.

-Mapping disciplines in the area of social sciences and addressing their relationships and complex articulations with psychology, having as horizon the challenges inherent in the recurrent project of constituting a unified and integrated Social and Human Science.

15. Specific Objectives

-Lead students to have an overview of the importance of the social sciences for the construction of psychological science, and reciprocally, of psychological science for the social sciences.

-Understand the inseparability of a holistic study of society and a holistic study of the human person, in the light of the ecological paradigm and the sociological concept of « Macro-Micro link ».

-Address the issue of « rationality » of actions and behaviour, in the light of various theoretical appro

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16. Skills to be acquired

-Promote the student's intellectual autonomy, develop the ability to analyze and reflect on social issues, their importance for the construction of psychological science and apply these concepts and knowledge.

-Learn to study the same phenomenon (eg memory) in the light of different disciplinary and theoretical approaches.

17. Teaching Methodology

Lectures, complemented by debates and accompanied reading exercises.

18. Course Unit Program

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I. THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
1. « Monodisciplinarity », « multidisciplinarity », « interdisciplinarity » and « post-disciplinarity » in social sciences
2. From fragmentation to totalization of knowledge: Social Science as the horizon of the social sciences
3. Research practices in social sciences

II. DURKHEIMIAN SOCIOLOGY
1. The science of the « social fact »
2. Holism in sociology and anthropology: the concept of « total social phenomenon » (M. Mauss)
3. The "Golden Rule" of the Durkheimian sociological method as delimitation of a disciplinary frontier separating sociology and psychology: "Explaining the social by the social".
4. The refutation of biological determinism through the ethnographic record of the diversity of cultural patterns of behavior: the inapplicability of the ethological concept of « ethogram » to the human species
5. The social determinants of individual behavior: Durkheim's study of suicide and the concept of « social anomie »

III. WEBERIAN SOCIOLOGY
1. The critique of positivist epistemology by the German hermeneutic tradition: Geisteswissenschaften (Science of the Spirit) and epistemological dualism
2. Weberian comprehensive sociology and the ideal-typical method: an objective science of the subjectivity of human actors
3. Subjectively targeted meanings of a religious nature and unplanned aggregation phenomena of an economic nature: Methodological individualism, Protestantism and capitalism
4. Individual rationality, collective rationalization and social disenchantment: the sociological study of the bureaucratic phenomenon

IV. KARL MARX and SOCIAL SCIENCE
1. Class structures and personal destinies: the sociological critique of the ideologies of the ruling classes committed to justifying their privileges and legitimizing inequalities in living conditions
2. School and structural symbolic violence: the bourdieusian critique of meritocratic ideology
3. Macro-class struggles (K. Marx) and Micro-struggles of mutual (de)classification (P. Bourdieu) : Macro-Micro links
4. The Marxist concept of "alienation", at the intersection of the social and the individual: the colonization of the slave's mind by an ethics of "honesty" as social alienation
5. Alms and revolutions: the structural scope of actions
6. Network of oppressions and intersectional approach
7. Consciousness as an engine of individual disalienation and collective emancipation: a pedagogy of the oppressed (Paulo Freire)

V. READ NORBERT ELIAS
1. Norbert Élias and the sociological critique of the concept of « individual »: the chain system of

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functional interdependence
2. Cultural Macrohistory and Microbehaviors: the western civilizational process

VI. READ ERVING GOFFMAN
1. The « situation » neglected by sociologists
2. Frame Analysis
3. Games as co-construction of small worlds within the social world
4. Total institutions and disciplining devices: Cross-reading of E. Goffman and M. Foucault, around the psychiatric hospital

VII. ETHNOMETHODOLOGY and CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS
1. The conversion of phenomenology into an empirical study program
1.1. The two cognitive modes of (co-)piloting situated actions: actions performed for the first time v/s routinized actions based on incorporated knowledge
1.2. Experiments in natural environment (Breaching Experiments)
1.2.1. The Lessons of a Failed Experiment: Stanley Milgram
2. People are not « cultural idiots » (Garfinkel): practical rationality
3. Mutual and joint rationalization: The concept of accountability in ethnomethodology
3.1. Mental inferences and Interpretations of the rational meaning of other people's behavior: social life as an observational practice and cognitive activity
3.2. Justifying myself: account for the rationality of my actions
4. The Conversation Machinery (Harvey Sacks)
4.1. Adjacent pairs
5. In the articulation of Goffman's sociology and ethnomethodological conversation analysis: the conflicts

19. Assessment Methods

Continuous assessment will take into account attendance, quality of participation in classes, two written tests and a group assignment.

20. Didactic Resources

History of Sociological Thought Handbook - Bibliographic databases (Zotero platform)

21. Sustainability Objectives

Training psychologists is to contribute, through the mediation of the various missions they assume, to, among others, the promotion of health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), support for victims of sexist, homophobic or transphobic violence and the prevention of this type of violence (SDG 5), for the promotion of well-being at work and the fight against workplace harassment (SDG 8). This UC contributes to strengthening together with students the links that unite psychological and social well-being.

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22. Keywords

Social Sciences
Interdisciplinarity
Macro-Micro Links
Paradigms

23. Main Bibliography

Author(s): Didier Fassin & George Steinmetz (ed.)
Title: The Social Sciences in the Looking Glass : Studies in the Production of Knowledge
Edition: Year: 2023
Local: Durham / London
Publisher: Duke University Press

Author(s): Pablo Buznic-Bourgeacq
Title: Prendre en compte le sujet : Enjeux épistémologiques et défis méthodologiques pour les science
Edition: Year: 2020
Local: Nîmes
Publisher: Champ social

Author(s): Peter Berger & Thomas Luckmann
Title: A construção social da realidade (1966)
Edition: Year: 1999
Local: Lisboa
Publisher: Dinalivro

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s): Brigitte Albero & Joris Thievenaz (ed.)
Title: Enquêter dans les métiers de l humain
Edition: Year: 2022
Local: Dijon
Publisher: Editions Raison et Passions

Author(s): Nathalie Heinich
Title: La cadre-analyse d'Erving Goffman
Edition: Year: 2020
Local: Paris
Publisher: CNRS Éditions

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