UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Sociological Theories

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Higher Institute of Social Work

2. Course

SOCIAL WORK

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Sociological Theories (L4510)

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:	30,00
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	
Tutorial Guidance:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor MICHEL GUSTAVE JOSEPH BINET

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

-To promote in students an attitude of scientific rigor, teaching them to break with the common sense and to adopt an investigative attitude towards social life, with the help of theories belonging to the scientific heritage of sociology.

-Enable students to participate in a qualified way in contemporary debates, through apprehension of the historical roots of current analyzes and controversies.

15. Specific Objectives

-Know the scientific object of sociology.
-Understand the link between sociology and social work.
-Know the main theoretical currents and some reference authors in sociological theories.
-Know relevant sociological concepts and exercise their application to Social Work issues

16. Skills to be acquired

-Approach a social phenomenon in the light of various sociological theories.
-Know how to use scientific concepts in the analysis of concrete social phenomena.
-Improve skills in reading and summarizing scientific documents.

17. Teaching Methodology

Exposition of themes. Debate. Request for the active participation of students.

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18. Course Unit Program

1. What is Sociology and what is its connection to social work

2. Sociological training and Study of the history of sociological thought

3. The Prehistory of Sociology
3.1. Conventionalist and contractualist approaches to social order
3.2. Machiavelli and La Boétie: Whose side are we on? (Becker)
3.3. Utopia, Battle of the Lights and Control of Historicity
3.4. State regulation v/s Mercantile self-regulation: the great controversy
3.5. Auguste Comte: the dual heritage of revolutionary and counterrevolutionary thought

4. The founders of modern sociology
4.1. Karl Marx: A combative social science in favor of equality and a society without exploitation of man by man
4.2. Émile Durkheim: The rules of sociological method
4.3. Max Weber: from « Geisteswissenschaften » to comprehensive sociology
4.4. The Chicago School: monographs devoted to populations in situations of social vulnerability
4.5. Synthesis: The construction of objects of study in sociology from the perspective of each founder

5. Paradigms and theoretical frameworks of sociological research
5.1. Evolutionism in the works of Marx, Durkheim, Weber and Élias
5.2. Functionalism in Durkheim's work
5.3. Structuralism in the works of Marx and Durkheim
5.4. Symbolic Interactionism in American Sociology
5.4.1. Émile Durkheim read by Erving Goffman
5.4.2. Cognitive Sociology : Durkheim, Cicourel and Sacks
5.5. Methodological individualism and the theory of rational choices
5.5.1. Max Weber read by Raymond Boudon
5.6. Empirical investigation: theory validation arena

6. Contemporary sociology and theoretical rearticulations
6.1. Read Pierre Bourdieu, heir to Marxist, Durkheimian and Weberian sociologies

19. Assessment Methods

-Two tests
-Written work (individually or in groups)
-Students' participation throughout the semester in initiatives and events conducted by the school will be taken into account within the scope of continuous assessment, in accordance with the Assessment Regulations.

20. Didactic Resources

-Handbook
-Bibliographic database on the Zotero platform

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21. Sustainability Objectives

Train social workers committed to fighting inequalities and their causes (SDG 10 & 8), mobilized to, through partnerships (SDG 17), eradicate poverty and hunger (SDG 1 & 2), in favor of a community inclusive and anti-oppressive (SDG 5), is to contribute through education (SDG 4), as a professor in charge of this UC, to reinforce a professional class committed to justice and peace (SDG 16), in an eco-responsible society (green social work : ODS 3, 6, 12, 13, 14 & 15).

22. Keywords

Science
Paradigm
Sociology
Theory

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Pierre-Jean Simon		
Title:	História da Sociologia		
Edition:		Year:	1991
Local:	Porto		
Publisher:	Rés		

Author(s):	Lena Dominelli		
Title:	Sociology for Social Work		
Edition:		Year:	1997
Local:	Hampshire / London		
Publisher:	MacMillan		

Author(s):	Le Forum - Bruxelles contre les inégalités		
Title:	Pauvrophobie : Petite encyclopédie des idées reçues sur la pauvreté		
Edition:		Year:	2018
Local:	Bruxelles		
Publisher:	Luc Pire		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	José Maria Carvalho Ferreira et al.		
Title:	Sociologia		
Edition:		Year:	1995
Local:	Amadora		
Publisher:	McGraw-Hill (Portugal)		

Author(s):	Kate van Heugten & Anita Gibbs		
Title:	Social Work for Sociologists: Theory and Practice		
Edition:		Year:	2015
Local:	New York		
Publisher:	Palgrave Macmillan		

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor MICHEL GUSTAVE JOSEPH BINET
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