

**Universidade de Lisboa
Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestão
Departamento de Ciências Sociais
Secção de Sociologia**

SOCIOLOGY

(SYLLABUS)

Academic Year 2018/2019

Professor

Rafael Marques
Departamento de Ciências Sociais
Secção de Sociologia

Phone

213925938
Ext: 465938

Email

rmarques@iseg.ulisboa.pt
Gabinete 213 – Rua Miguel Lupi - By
appointment

Class Info –

1st Semester 2018/2019

E02

Mon (16:30-18:00) 106 (F2)
Fri (15:30-17:30) 105 (F2)

E01

Mon (16:30-18:00) 103 (F2)
Fri (13:30-15:30) 103 (F2)

Overview:

This course provides a short introduction to the sociological endeavour as both an academic/scientific discipline and a perspective through which to view and analyze the social world. During the semester, the students will be exposed to classical and contemporary sociological theories, sociological concepts and basic social sciences vocabulary. The sociological framework will be applied to the study of social groups, organizations, social processes, institutions and common social problems. Sociology will give us tools to demystify taken for granted assumptions, clarify social paradoxes, illustrate the uses and misuses of social labels and common speeches. The entire course will be a work in progress application of the “sociological imagination” to some of the social issues that dominate the current world.

Course Description and Goals:

In its most basic form, Sociology is the scientific study of human groups, organizations and societies and the patterns of interchange between them. In this course, we will examine the major questions that guide sociological analysis. We will also practice applied sociology by exploring our everyday social worlds and the invisible or taken-for-granted social forces that shape it. Sociologists are concerned with a vast array of topics and they approach the investigation of these topics in numerous ways. This course will introduce you to the field by focusing on several important sociological topics, including socialization, culture, the social construction of knowledge, inequality, race and ethnic relations, poverty, and diversified political and economic issues.

Influential sociological studies have focused on everything from how people try to look their best in face-to-face interactions, to how various inequalities shape identities and social conditions, to how the system of liberal capitalism came to dominate the world. They have sought answers to various puzzles of social life through creative and sometimes controversial methods - living on the streets, simulating prison conditions on a college campus, collecting questionnaires from thousands of random people in the phonebook, or conducting interviews with their most intimate personal acquaintances.

This course will introduce and draw you into sociological ways of seeing the world, provide you with tools for understanding your own social position and the conditions in which you live. It will introduce you to the field by focusing on several important sociological topics, including socialization, culture, the social construction of knowledge, inequality, race and ethnic relations, poverty, and political sociology.

Aims:

At the end of this course you should have:

- An understanding of the main sociological perspectives;
- An understanding of the most important classical and contemporary sociological theories;
- The ability to apply these perspectives to understand society generally, as well as to understand the causes and consequences of various social problems;
- The ability to critically consider the important role of social interaction in shaping our lives;
- The capacity to develop your "sociological imagination", applying a critical perspective to view various crosscutting social circles (family, school, workplace, hometown, country, etc.) with a greater understanding of individual, group and societal processes.
- The capacity to master the basic conceptual tools of sociological inquiry, including the ability to identify a sociological problem, to pose theoretical questions and engage with current debates, and to learn methods of data collection and presentation.
- The awareness to expand knowledge of specific events, groups, historical periods and economic, political, and social trends, focusing on subject areas that resonate with and expand your own interests.

Course Outline

- The Sociological Lexicon. Some important Concepts. Sociology as the science of social paradoxes. What is "Sociological Imagination"?
- The rise of the sociological endeavour. Reacting against the contractual founding myths. The three revolutions and the shaping of a critical perspective.
- The truth is not out there. The Day to day life and dramaturgy. The Presentation of Self and the Social Construction of Reality. Are Emotions mature for sociological analysis?
- Rationality in Social Life. The Identity Conundrum. Shaping factors of allegiance and Identification.
- The Time Factor and the Acceleration Thesis. Memories, Prediction abilities and uchronian devices.
- Discussing Modernity and its nemesis: anomie, alienation, public opinion, tragedy of culture, "aurea mediocritas" and the Iron Cage of Rationality
- Power, Authority, Control and Discipline: Regulating Societies. Inequalities and Mobilities: Reproduction and Social Standings.
- Crime, Violence and Deviance: The Social Construction of Margins. From Lombroso to Labelling.

- Religion and Society. Historical and functional analysis. Elementary forms and the elective affinities between capitalism and Protestantism. Redefining Boundaries in Sociological Thought.
- Technology and Society: Risks and Uncertainties. Living on the Edge. The Declining Trust Problem.
- Dynamics of Change in Contemporary Societies: Social Movements, Revolutions and Globalization.

Basic Bibliographical References:

- ARON, Raymond (1998a), *Main Currents in Sociological Thought: Montesquieu, Comte, Marx, Tocqueville, and the Sociologists and the Revolution of 1848*, Transaction Publishers.
- ARON, Raymond (1998b), *Main Currents in Sociological Thought, Volume 2: Durkheim, Pareto, Weber*, Transaction Publishers.
- COSER, Lewis (2003), *Masters of Sociological Thought: Ideas in Historical and Social Context*, 2nd edition, Waveland Press.
- DURKHEIM, Emile (1997a), *The Division of Labor in Society*, Free Press.
- DURKHEIM, Emile (1997b), *Suicide*, Free Press.
- ELIAS, Norbert (2000), *The Civilizing Process*, 2nd edition, Blackwell Publishing.
- FERREIRA, C., CARVALHO, A., GRAÇA, J., MARQUES, R., PEIXOTO, J., RAPOSO, R, (1995) *Sociologia*, Alfragide, McGraw-Hill.
- GIDDENS, Anthony, (1973), *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- GIDDENS, Anthony, (2007), *Introduction to Sociology*, 6th edition, W.W. Norton.
- GOFFMAN, Erving (1959), *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, Anchor.
- GOFFMAN, Erving (1990), *Stigma*, Anchor, Penguin Books.
- MARX, Karl (1978), *The Marx Engels Reader*, 2nd edition, Robert C. Tucker (ed), W.W. Norton.
- MARX, Karl and Friedrich ENGELS (1988), *The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 and the Communist Manifesto*, Prometheus Books.
- MILLS, C. Wright (2000), *The Sociological Imagination*, 40th Anniversary Edition, Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- NISBET, Robert (1993), *The Sociological Tradition*, Transaction Publishers.
- PLAMENATZ, John (1963), *Man and Society: Political and Social Theory: Machiavelli through Rousseau*, Mc Graw Hill.
- RITZER, George (2003), *Classical Sociological Theory*, 4th edition, New York, McGraw Hill.
- RITZER, George (2007), *Modern Sociological Theory*, 7th edition, New York, McGraw-Hill.
- SIMMEL, Georg (1964), *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*, Kurt Wolff (ed.), Free Press.
- SIMMEL, Georg (2004), *The Philosophy of Money*, 3th edition, Routledge.
- WEBER, Max (1978), *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, University of California Press.
- WEBER, Max (2003), *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Dover Publications.

Texts, Books, and assignments will be available at the Course Web Page

Students should also use the databases available at ISEG's web page, namely:

ABI-Inform
Econlit
JSTOR
B-On
SCOPUS

These databases provide access either to abstracts of some of the most important sociological journals or to full text articles.

Evaluation and Grading

The evaluation of the course is framed by the “Princípios Gerais sobre a Avaliação de Conhecimentos”. The specific rules for this course are:

- The final grade will result from the weighted average of a research group project (65%) to be presented in one of the final four classes of the course and class participation (35%). Class participation involves comments on texts discussed in class (available at the course webpage) and an individual report on a sociological paradox chosen by each student under teacher's supervision. The themes for the group project will be distributed at the beginning of the semester. The students who choose not to participate in classes and fail to present the group assignment may opt for the final exam. The same situation applies to all students with grades inferior to 9.5 after weighting the group assignment and participation marks. No auxiliary means are allowed, during the final exam.

Teaching Staff:

Rafael Marques