



2013/2014
FICHE DE COURS
COURSE SYLLABUS

Intitulé du cours / *course title* : Introduction to Sociology

Enseignant / *teacher* : Julien Navarro

Nombre d'heures / *hours* : 24 heures

☐ Licence 1

☐ ~~Licence 2~~

☐ ~~Semestre 1~~

☐ Semestre 2

Résumé (*description*)

The purpose of this undergraduate course is to introduce students to important conceptual and theoretical issues in the field of social theory.

Over the course of the semester, the course investigates a range of theoretical propositions concerning such topics as agency, subjectivity, rationality, interdependence, cooperation, delegation, institutions and social change.

Throughout the lectures, sociology will be conceived of as an instrument to make sense of social enigmas. Inspired by the tradition of methodological individualism and rational choice theory, the core arguments of the course will rely on concrete examples from the varied subfields of the social sciences (history, economy, sociology, political science...).

At the end of the semester, students should have a sound knowledge of major tenets of social theory. They should also be able to understand and use fundamental sociological concepts.

There is no specific prerequisite as this is an introductory course.

Plan (*content summary*)

The course is organized as follows :

1. Social theory
 - What is sociology about? Three examples
 - The sociological traditions: holism, functionalism and methodological individualism
2. Social action
 - Action and the assumption of intentionality
 - The desire-opportunity framework
3. Rationalities
 - Rational choice theory
 - Limitations of RCT (1): bounded rationality
 - Limitations of RCT (2): non consequentialist rationalities
4. Interactions
 - Social interactions and their consequences
 - Game theory
5. Cooperation and collective action
 - Cooperation and rationality
 - Free riding and the problem of collective action
6. Collective decision-making
 - Aggregation mechanisms
 - A case study: the essence of decision
7. Institutions
 - The principal-agent model of delegation
 - Theories of bureaucracy
8. Sociology of change

- Innovation and diffusion
- Resistance to change

Bibliographie (*references-readings*)

There is one required reading for this course: Albert O. Hirschman (1982), *Shifting Involvements: Private Interest and Public Action*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Evaluation (*grading*)

Contrôle continu	Type d'épreuve	Durée (*)	Semaine du ... (après x heures de cours)	Coefficient
	One mid-term exam (25% of grade)	1 hour		0.25
Examen terminal	Final exam (75% of grade)	3 hours		0.75

Type d'épreuve : écrit, oral, devoir surveillé (DS), devoir maison (DM), interro, quizz, fiche de lecture...

Les épreuves se déroulent dans la langue d'enseignement.

Les examens terminaux se déroulent entre le 05/05 et le 17/05/2014 - le planning est fixé par le service des études.

(*) Indiquer la durée pour un DS ou le délai de distribution et la date limite de restitution pour un DM.