

## Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



### COPS1213 Sociology and Anthropology II

[60h] 6 credits

**Teacher(s):** Olivier Servais, Bernadette Wynants, Bernadette Wynants (supplée N.)  
**Language:** French  
**Level:** First cycle

#### Aims

Whereas the first year BAC 1 course introduces students to Sociology and Anthropology through social issues typical of modern societies, this second year BAC 2 course aims instead to give students theoretical and conceptual skills (at a mid-level of abstraction and systematicity) in both disciplines.

In particular, students are expected to develop:

- an understanding of the major theoretical issues in Sociology and Anthropology: power, culture, economics, social integration, socialisation, change etc
- an ability to analyse social action on a number of (micro, meso, macrosociological) levels
- a basic ability to place the concepts within a wider range of possible theories.

#### Main themes

This course will approach the most familiar issues in Sociology and Anthropology from the point of view of action analysis. Particular attention is given to the following topics:

##### 1. action within interpersonal interaction

- social construction of space (frontstage, backstage, barriers)
- social construction of time (time lived, temporal metrics, speaking turns, etc.)
- role adoption and self-presentation
- meetings, shared knowledge, context

##### 2. Group action:

- birth, sexuality, kinship, marriage, death
- socialisation: learning the rules, habitus, relationship between culture and personality etc.
- Organisational theories: strategies, power (legitimacy and processes), identity (professional, family, etc.), regulation
- Technical mediation
- conformity, deviance, stigmatisation

##### 3. Social action:

- social structures: classes, social status, social stratification
- technical relations to nature and division of labour
- Theories of economic exchange: gifts, markets, distribution, exploitation, embedding
- Theories of the state (stateless societies, forms of legitimacy, elitism, pluralism, etc.)
- Theories of culture and religion (myths, totemism, standard sociological theories of the phenomenon of religion, etc.)
- social change: class struggles, social movements
- theories of history (evolutionism, diffusionism, historical particularism, etc.)

##### 4. Epistemology:

- the debate on explaining vs. understanding (broad outline)
- the defining features of Sociology and Anthropology as compared to other disciplines
- sociological and anthropological paradigms

## Content and teaching methods

There will be emphasis on learning the basic concepts within the sociological and anthropological tradition. The course teacher will:

1. widen students' understanding of socio-anthropological culture by giving non-Western and non-modern examples, and encouraging them thus to adopt a comparative approach
2. show that sociological and anthropological approaches offer multiple explanations
3. demonstrate a simple approach to tackling epistemological questions, the methodologies being the subject of specific courses in BAC 2 and the metatheoretical debate of a specific course in BAC 3.
4. introduce basic concepts used in Anthropology within a sociological perspective, without encroaching on the contents of the specific Cultural Anthropology course given in BAC 2

At least one ECTS will be devoted to theoretical text reading related to the subjects studied in the course.

## Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Course entry requirements: Students should have taken Sociology and Anthropology I

Evaluation: The course will be examined through an oral examination.

## Other credits in programs

<b>COMU12BA</b>	Deuxième année de bachelier en information et communication (6 credits)	Mandatory
<b>HUSO12BA</b>	Deuxième année de bachelier en sciences humaines et sociales (6 credits)	Mandatory
<b>SOC21</b>	Première licence en sociologie	
<b>SOCA12BA</b>	Deuxième année de bachelier en sociologie et anthropologie (6 credits)	Mandatory
<b>SPOL12BA</b>	Deuxième année de bachelier en sciences politiques (6 credits)	