

## Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



### COPS1311 Social Philosophy

[30h] 3 credits

**Teacher(s):** Jean De Munck  
**Language:** French  
**Level:** First cycle

#### Aims

This course aims to introduce students to:

1. the basic epistemology of the Social Sciences;
2. standard issues in the Social Sciences;
3. the basic paradigms of historical philosophy

#### Main themes

To meet these objectives, the course will deal with the following themes:

1. epistemological issues within the Social Sciences, such as :
  - what sets the Human Sciences apart from the Natural Sciences (debate to explain and understand)
  - the debate on individualistic and holistic methodologies (existence of collective entities)
  - the issue of ethnocentricity
  - the issue of the relationship between layman's knowledge and expert knowledge
2. Standard issues in the Social Sciences such as:
  - axiological neutrality and the researcher's involvement in the Social Sciences
  - the distinction between traditional theory and critical theory
  - the prescriptive foundations of the great theoretical paradigms of actor-network theory and social action theory (utilitarian tradition, Weberian tradition, Hegelian and Marxist tradition)
3. the issue of history: evolutionary theories, dialectic theories, Kantian and Fichtian theories

#### Content and teaching methods

The lectures are completed by readings of texts.

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

Evaluation : An oral and written examination

#### Other credits in programs

<b>FILO12BA</b>	Deuxième année de bachelier en philosophie	(3 credits)	Mandatory
<b>ISPA9CE</b>	Certificat universitaire en philosophie (fondements)	(3 credits)	Mandatory