

## Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



### SOC2460 Sociology research seminar I

[60h] 8 credits

**Teacher(s):** Daniel Bodson  
**Language:** French  
**Level:** Second cycle

#### Aims

Students will acquire three skills:

- an understanding of the conceptual tools used in sociology;
- the implementation of an explicit method;
- the processing of collected data, with a view to learning how to conduct operations of empirical research independently.

#### Main themes

The seminar will develop a research topic (this will vary from year to year depending on what the students choose, or following a suggestion from the teacher):

- in the form of a conceptual problem to be resolved, or
- in the form of a dilemma set before the actors, or
- in the form of a presentation of empirical data that require a fresh interpretation, or which challenge a theoretical model.

It will require a command of the following operations:

- justification of the choice of field (accessibility of data and information);
- the current state of research on the topic, the field, and the issue;
- justification of the problems, or of the theoretical options;
- delimitation of a method of collecting data.

#### Content and teaching methods

##### Content

The following operations will be addressed:

- the field of research with a provisional title;
- the direction being taken by the research (questions, the issue that has been planned, relations between this issue and theoretical options linked to one or more of the sociological currents);
- presentation of the 'field' (to show how it is accessible);
- planned techniques for gathering and processing (a precise presentation; showing how they are adapted to the issue, to accessible information, and to the normal length of the university year;
- non exhaustive bibliographical references (reference books and articles).

##### Methodology

Collective work mobilising inputs from all students around the chosen topic.

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

**Pre requirements:** A basic knowledge of sociology; an understanding of descriptive statistics.

**Assessment:** Attendance at seminar activities is compulsory. Students will produce a paper summarising what they have learned on the seminar (self assessment), and highlighting the inputs that they have made to the seminar.

**Supervision:** The seminar will be run by a member of the teaching staff, who may or may not, depending on whether research is being carried out, be assisted by a researcher.