Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
SOC 522	Epistemology of Methods in Social Sciences	2	3	0	0	3	6

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	French
Course Type	Compulsory
Course Level	Masters Degree
Objective	Social Sciences are crossed by debates both concerning the objects to describe and the methods to use. Epistemology allows understanding the whole set of oppositions that have been historically structuring the different trends of sociology until today. The student must be able to recognize and articulate the methodological instruments that have been historically developed in sociology.
Content	By presenting the main great schools of thought and their epistemological stances, we will analyze what the divergences imply on a methodological level. More specifically, we will describe and interpret the procedures put in place by sociologists to “make sense” of social world, how the latter correspond to presuppotions on the nature and on the functioning of social reality itself. The choice and sense of a method depends namely on the variation of studied contexts (individual, interaction, structure, rationality, network). At last, we must reflect on the overtaking of dualisms and cleavages to seize what recovers interdisciplinarity.
References	Documents available online and in PDF version (intranet network). Printed articles at disposal of students.

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction to epistemology
2	The great current of sociological thought : from Holism to Individualism
3	The interactions
4	The structure and its functions
5	Rationality and Action
6	Representations : discourses, images and narratives
7	Symbolic, knowledge and imaginary
8	The social networks and movements
9	Sociological intervention ?
10	Critical perspectives on Sociology
11	Interdisciplinarity and interculturality
12	Transversal reflections
13	Students presentations on their research projects
14	Preparation to exams