Teaching Guide				
Identifying Data				2019/20
Subject (*)	Risk, culture and environment		Code	615G01417
Study programme	Grao en Socioloxia			
Descriptors				
Cycle	Period	Year	Type	Credits
Graduate	1st four-month period	Fourth	Optional	4.5
Language	Spanish			
Teaching method	Face-to-face			
Prerequisites				
Department	Socioloxía e Ciencias da Comunicación			
Coordinador	Santiago Gómez, Elvira	E-mail	elvira.santiago@udc.es	
Lecturers	Santiago Gómez, Elvira	E-mail	elvira.santiago@udc.es	
Web				
General description	The subject of Risk, Culture, and Environment is aimed to fill a very relevant gap in the curriculum of the Degree in Sociology. This is, the concern in most recent sociological theory about the phenomena that are structuring the advanced societies. From a going in depth in sociological theory about risk and risk society, this subject tries to initiate students in one of the most important areas in the current sociological research. Under different conceptualizations, the new sociological theory comes to question the same foundations of its own task. This is, the eminently modern division between the phenomena of society from the phenomena of nature or, in other terms, culture from environment.			

Study programme competences	
Code	Study programme competences
A8	Análisis de las transformaciones y evolución de las sociedades contemporáneas.
A21	Capacidades para identificar y medir factores de vulnerabilidad social y procesos conflictivos.
A23	Capacidades en evaluar los costes y beneficios ecológicos y sociales (presentes y futuros).
A24	Conocimientos y habilidades en transmitir los conceptos, problemáticas y perspectivas sociológicas.
A35	Actitud crítica frente a las doctrinas y las prácticas sociales.
A36	Actitud de compromiso frente a los problemas sociales y culturales.
B3	Capacidad de análisis y síntesis.
B6	Comunicación oral y escrita en la lengua nativa.
B9	Reconocimiento a la diversidad y a la multiculturalidad.
B13	Razonamiento crítico.
B16	Sensibilidad hacia temas medio ambientales.
B21	Aprendizaje autónomo.
B24	Habilidades para contextualizar e identificar los actores clave en cada situación.
B26	Capacidades en reconocer el carácter global y local de los fenómenos sociales.
B27	Capacidades en reconocer la complejidad de los fenómenos sociales.
C1	Expresarse correctamente, tanto de forma oral como escrita, en las lenguas oficiales de la comunidad autónoma.
C4	Desarrollarse para el ejercicio de una ciudadanía abierta, culta, crítica, comprometida, democrática y solidaria, capaz de analizar la realidad, diagnosticar problemas, formular e implantar soluciones basadas en el conocimiento y orientadas al bien común.
C8	Valorar la importancia que tiene la investigación, la innovación y el desarrollo tecnológico en el avance socioeconómico y cultural de la sociedad.

Learning outcomes			
Learning outcomes	Study programme competences		
Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to distinguish the social theories of environmental and technological risks in the global society.	A8 A24	B6 B21 B27	C1

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to determine the specific traits of the risk society against the previous modern societies.	A8 A24	B6 B21 B26 B27	C1
Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to propose relevant risk assessment criteria, crisis management and mediation in social conflicts.	A21	B3 B6 B13 B24 B26 B27	C1
Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to assess the extent of environmental and technological challenges of global society.	A8 A23 A35	B3 B13 B16 B24 B27	
Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to identify areas of technological and environmental risk and social vulnerability.	A21 A23 A35	B3 B9 B16 B24 B27	
Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to defend attitudes of commitment to environmental and technological risks.	A35 A36	B16 B27	C4 C8

Contents	
Topic	**Sub-topic**
LESSON 1: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIZING ABOUT RISK	Elements of the notion of risk. The notion of risk in the risk-cost-benefit analysis. Technical approach to risk. Psychological approach to risk. Sociological approach to risk. Conceptions of risk. Social nature of risk. Socio-cultural theories of risk. Risk, uncertainty and scientific knowledge. The precautionary principle. Risk communication and public opinion. Risk governance.
LESSON 2: RISK SOCIETY AND REFLEXIVE MODERNIZATION	Risk as a new modernity. What is reflexive modernization? Risk society. Risk and reflexivity. Risks and uncertainties. Processes of "individualization". The emergence of sub-politics. Towards a new modernity: a greater differentiation, the model of the "round table" and the reform of rationality.
LESSON 3: ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS	The construction of the division between nature and society. The instability of the concept of nature. The social construction of nature. The construction site of environmental issues. Science and social construction of environmental risk. The governance of environmental problems. The political transformation of modern environmentalism. The politics of nature. Environmentalism and globalization.
LESSON 4: TECHNOLOGICAL RISKS	Sociological perspective on technology. Theory of socio-technical change. A network analysis of technical change. The social construction of facts and artifacts. The resistance to new technology. The thesis of "normal accident". Winner: technology as legislation or the political content of technological systems.
LESSON 5. RISK ASSESSMENT	Risk and rationality. The role of the expert in risk assessment. Objectivity and values in risk assessment. Five dilemmas in the risk assessment. Strategic issues in risk assessment. The strategy of perceived risk and the opinion of the experts. The probabilistic strategy and democracy. The utilitarian strategy and uncertainty. The strategy of production. The isolationist strategy. New directions in risk assessment.

Planning				
Methodologies / tests	Competencies	Ordinary class hours	Student?s personal work hours	Total hours
Case study	A8 A21 A23 A35 A36 B3 B6 B9 B13 B16 B24 B26 B27 C1 C4 C8	0	25	25
Mind mapping	A8 A21 A24 B3 B6 B13 B21 B24 B26 B27 C1	2	8	10
Objective test	A8 A24 B6 B21 B27 C1	2	25	27
Critical bibliographical	A8 A24 B6 B21 B26 B27 C1	0	30	30
Guest lecture / keynote speech	A8 A21	15	0	15
Personalized attention		5.5	0	5.5
(*)The information in the planning table is for guidance only and does not take into account the heterogeneity of the students.				

Methodologies	
Methodologies	Description
Case study	It is to apply the concepts and theories learned in the course to the detailed study of a case likely to be approached from the perspective of risk. The case study will be specifically agreed between students and teacher. The study will be developed, if possible, in groups of no more than three students.
Mind mapping	Students will have to analyze one of the basic texts of the course and develop the conceptual map of the text. The teacher assigned to each student the analyzing text.
Objective test	The knowledge of the relevant aspects of the theoretical content of the course shall be demonstrated by an examination.
Critical bibliographical	Students must submit a recession about any of the basic texts or specific literature in the context of the debate in which it is inserted.
Guest lecture / keynote speech	The teacher will give lessons at the beginning of the course on the basic contents of the subject.

Personalized attention	
Methodologies	Description
Critical bibliographical Case study	Students must attend at least two tutorials to consult the teacher the case study, the recession and the development of the conceptual map.

Assessment			
Methodologies	Competencies	Description	Qualification
Critical bibliographical	A8 A24 B6 B21 B26 B27 C1	Contextualization of a text in the debates and concerns specific to the course content. It will be held individually.	20
Objective test	A8 A24 B6 B21 B27 C1	Conducting a review of the theoretical content of the course. It will be held individually.	35
Mind mapping	A8 A21 A24 B3 B6 B13 B21 B24 B26 B27 C1	Analysis of the conceptual map of a relevant text in the literature of the subject. It will be held individually.	15
Case study	A8 A21 A23 A35 A36 B3 B6 B9 B13 B16 B24 B26 B27 C1 C4 C8	Detailed description of a specific case and analysis of that case in the light of relevant theories. The work will take place, if possible, in groups.	30

Assessment comments
The teaching is organized in seminar format. Consequently, attendance and active participation in classes is absolutely essential for the evaluation. The evaluation depends directly on the frequency of attendance at the sessions and the quality of their participation and their contribution to their development. No final exam will be demanded for students with regular attendance in classes, but could be demanded a supervised project. Students who do not attend classes will have to do each evaluation methodologies that have been identified (case studies, concept mapping, bibliographic recession and objective test). The teacher reserves the right to make changes along the course, provided they are not in contradiction with any of the information contained herein.

Sources of information	
Basic	- Winner, Langdom (1979). Tecnología autónoma. Barcelona. Gustavo Gili - Winner, Langdom (1987). La ballena y el reactor. Una búsqueda de los límites en la era de la alta tecnología. Barcelona. Gedida - Latour, Bruno (2012). Políticas de la naturaleza. Por una democracia de las ciencias. Barcelona. RBA Libros - Lash, Scott (2007). Sociología del postmodernismo. Buenos Aires. Amorrortu - Giddens, A., Beck, U. & Lash, S. (1997). Modernización reflexiva. Política, tradición y estética en el orden social moderno. Madrid. Alianza editorial - Lash, Scott (1998). Economías de signo y espacio. Sobre el capitalismo de la posorganización. Buenos Aires. Amorrortu - Giddens, Anthony (1999). Consecuencias de la modernidad. Madrid. Alianza editorial - Latour, Bruno (2007). Nunca fuimos modernos. Ensayo de antropología simétrica. Buenos Aires. Siglo XXI - López Cerezo, J. A. & Luján, J. L. (2000). Ciencia y política del riesgo. Madrid. Alianza editorial - Beck, Ulrich (2006). La sociedad del riesgo. Hacia una nueva modernidad. Barcelona. Paidós - Beck, Ulrich (2006). La sociedad del riesgo global. Madrid. Siglo XXI
Complementary	- Ramos, Ramón (1999). Prometeo y las flores del mal. El problema del riesgo en la sociología contemporánea. Madrid. CIS - Luján, J. L. & Echeverría, J. (2004). Gobernar los riesgos. Ciencia y valores en la sociedad del riesgo. Madrid. OEI - Douglas, Mary (1996). La aceptabilidad del riesgo según las ciencias sociales. Barcelona. Paidós - Beck, Ulrich (2007). Un nuevo mundo feliz. La precariedad del trabajo en la era de la globalización. Barcelona. Paidós

Recommendations
Subjects that it is recommended to have taken before
Social and Cultural Anthropology/615G01102 Sociological Theory 1/615G01110 Sociological Theory 2/615G01203 Social Structure and Social Change/615G01208
Subjects that are recommended to be taken simultaneously
Globalization, Environment and Population/615G01409
Subjects that continue the syllabus
Other comments

A entrega dos traballos documentais que se realicen nesta materia:

Solicitarase en formato virtual e/ou soporte informático

Realizarase a través de Moodle, en formato dixital sen necesidade de imprimilos

De se realizar en papel:

- Non se empregarán plásticos.
- Realizaranse impresións a dobre cara.
- Empregarase papel reciclado.
- Evitarase a impresión de borradores.

(*)The teaching guide is the document in which the URV publishes the information about all its courses. It is a public document and cannot be modified. Only in exceptional cases can it be revised by the competent agent or duly revised so that it is in line with current legislation.