

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

**Code:** 33509  
**Name:** Contemporary social structure  
**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Academic year:** 2025-26

**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1311 - Degree in Social Work	Facultat de Ciències Socials	3	Second quarter

**SUBJECT-MATTER**

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1311 - Degree in Social Work	Sociology	COMPULSORY

**COORDINATION**

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**SUMMARY**

The subject *Contemporary Social Structure* is a compulsory, 6 ECTS credit subject that takes place in the third academic year of the degree in Social Work. Together with *General Sociology* and *Methods and Techniques in Social Investigation*, it makes up the core subject Sociology.

This subject intends to offer students a strict vision of the stratification and social inequality systems, with special attention to the contemporary societies that make up the current system-world and especially on the position of Spain within this system. Special focus will be on inequality processes at a global scale, where analytical units of the system are not only individuals, families or classes but the nations themselves.

Understanding of the basic concepts is especially relevant for the analysis of the social structure understood as a system, based on the different theoretical perspectives that explain the social stratification and inequality. Meaningful empirical data will also be used to allow an adequate understanding of these dimensions, key for the analysis of social reality.

**PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE****RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**



There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Apply strategies for the identification, intervention and assessment in social work in the face of behaviours, contexts and circumstances that create risk situations for individuals, groups and communities.

Assess needs and possible options to guide an intervention strategy from a social work perspective.

Demonstrate critical and self-critical thinking in the field of the degree programme, considering aspects such as professional ethics, moral values and the social implications of the different activities carried out.

Demonstrate professional competence in the practice of social work.

Establish professional relationships in order to identify the most appropriate form of intervention.

Identify the disciplinary knowledge necessary for the analysis of contemporary society, its structure and dynamics, including the complexity of social phenomena, adopting a multidisciplinary perspective.

Know methods and models of social work for intervention with individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities according to their needs and circumstances.

Learn about the design, implementation and evaluation of social intervention projects.

Resolve crisis situations by assessing their urgency, planning and developing actions to deal with them and reviewing their results.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. The concept of social structure

The macro-sociological perspective within social sciences. The concepts of social structure and social system. Dialogical duality between structure and social action. Strategic structural processes and resistance.



## 2. Stratification Social Systems

Social structure, inequality and stratification. The different stratification systems: underlying domination logic and process of legitimacy. Main stratification factors in contemporary societies. Unequal distribution of social resources and domination relations.

## 3. The different fields in the analysis of Social Structure

The field demographic and the families, the economic field, the political field and the cultural field. Interdependencies and contemporary trends in the local and global level.

## 4. Main factors of social stratification: the analysis of the social classes

Classical theories on social stratification: Karl Marx, a critical perspective on conflict; Max Weber, a multidimensional perspective on conflict. Modern stratification theories: the functional approach to social stratification; the critical theory of E.O. Wright; the theory of conflict of R. Dahrendorf. Mobility and class reproduction. Stratification factors: gender, cultural origin (ethnic group, immigration), age, etc.

## 5. Inequality and global stratification

Main theories about inequality and global stratification. The system of global stratification: centre, semi-periphery and periphery. Domination, conflict and centre hegemony: competition between the different capitalist models. The new global classes.

### WORKLOAD

#### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60,00</b>

#### NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES



<b>Activity</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Attendance at other activities	4,00
Individual or group project	24,00
Independent study and work	18,00
Preparation of lessons	24,00
Preparation for assessment activities	20,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology will combine theoretical and practical training activities, tutoring and those that include study, evaluation and, in general, individual and team work of the students. The activities will be the following:

- Participative master lesson.
- Exhibition-type activities: theoretical exhibitions, seminars, presentation of works.
- Practical activities: role-playing, case resolution, computer applications, workshops.
- Collaborative work / teamwork of the students.
- Individual, group and / or virtual tutoring.

## EVALUATION

The evaluation will be carried out in a cumulative and weighted manner using the following instruments:

- WRITTEN TEST to check the organization of ideas, application of analysis and critical reflexivity linked to the contents of the subject. It will have a weighting between 5 and 7 in the final grade. The exam must be passed in order for the evaluation of the practical activities to be taken into account for the calculation of



the final mark for the course.

- EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC WORK AND EXERCISES OF ANALYSIS, DEBATE AND CRITICAL REFLECTION AND ATTENDANCE TO COMPLEMENTARY TRAINING ACTIVITIES. It will consist of teamwork aimed at fostering the development of abilities to search for meaningful information and critical thinking. This section will also include carrying out exercises in the classroom based on different written and audiovisual materials, etc. tending to favor the learning process. Together they will have a weighting between 3 and 5 in the final grade. the practical activities not carried out or failed cannot be resubmitted at the second sitting because they are part of the continuous assessment of the subject.

The students who do not obtain the approved of the subject in the first call, will be able to present themselves to the second following also these criteria. In the second call it will not be necessary to repeat the academic works or exercises already carried out throughout the semester.

We remind you that:

Plagiarism is "the act of dishonesty at the time of substantially copying other people's works presenting them as their own" (Reducindo et al., 2017, p. 300). And, cyber plagiarism "occurs when a work is presented as the result of personal work when it is really information partially, partially or totally copied from an author without any type of credits or bibliography. It usually happens with texts [...] online " (Sarriá and De Francisco, 2018, p. 4).

Not engaging in practices such as those referred to implies making responsible and ethical use of the information used in academic papers. The APA-7th Edition Standards are the essential instrument to achieve academic honesty as we will indicate in the continuous evaluation work that you will present throughout the semester.

That said, as of the second semester of the first year, in all subjects special attention will be paid, in the continuous evaluation of works, to compliance with the practices of academic honesty, and respect for the intellectual property of third parties, through the use of the citation and presentation of academic papers, following APA-7th edition standards.

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## REFERENCES

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- Instituto Nacional de Estadística - INE <http://www.ine.es/>
- Fundación FOESSA, VIII Informe sobre exclusión y desarrollo social en España. Madrid: Fundación FOESSA <https://www.foessa.es/viii-informe/>
- Oficina Europea de Estadística - EUROSTAT <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home>
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- Sassen, Saskia, Expulsiones. Brutalidad y complejidad en la economía global. Madrid: Katz, 2015.
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