



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 34404
Name: Social structure and change
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Facultat de Ciències Socials	2	First quarter
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Dret	3	
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Ciències Socials	3	
1925 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Dret	3	
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Facultat de Dret	3	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Social structure and change	COMPULSORY
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Year 3 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Year 3 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY
1925 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Year 3 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Asignaturas obligatorias de tercer curso	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

TORRES PEREZ FRANCISCO JOSE

SUMMARY

This course develops and discusses the different theoretical concepts of "social structure", the main analytical fields that make up the structural analysis, as well as the different strategies of empirical observation.

It addresses the different stratification systems throughout history and focuses the subject on



contemporary societies, deepening the understanding of the mechanisms of social stratification, in the analysis of social classes and other factors of social stratification. In this regard, different theoretical approaches are studied, as well as different empirical measurement strategies, highlighting some statistical data analysis techniques.

It also addresses aspects related to the factors of sex/gender, race/ethnicity and age/generation, given the interdependence they present with class positions and their importance in characterizing the processes of social stratification of current societies.

In addition, we study the processes of stratification and global inequality, within the framework of globalization, as well as the role of states, value chains and global financial markets. It analyses the impacts of these processes and actors on social segmentation, the configuration of global classes, and the nature of global crises.

These contents make the course provide students with adequate and updated training on current social stratification. Likewise, it promotes the capacity of the students to obtain and elaborate data on the different aspects of stratification in different countries, especially in the EU, and to link and analyse them with the concepts and theoretical approaches of the course, linking theory and practice.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Relationship with other subjects of the same degree

No enrolment restrictions have been specified.

Other types of prerequisites

It is advisable that students know the basic concepts of the subject Sociology and the first-year subjects included in the module Social Sciences. It is also advisable that students know the meaning of the main statistic measures covered in the subject Social Statistics and know how to conduct online research as learnt in the subject Incorporation to the Degree and Intro

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Analyse contemporary society, its structure and dynamics based on sociological concepts and theories.

Analyse empirical data on social structure, change and problems.

Analyse social phenomena adopting a multidisciplinary perspective (sociological, psychosocial, economic,



political, historical and anthropological).

Apply the principles of the professional code of ethics of sociology and develop a commitment to social problems.

Clearly communicate theories, problems and proposals of a sociological nature, both orally and in writing, using new information and communication technologies.

Describe and explain social inequalities based on social theories and indicators and detect emerging processes.

Develop gender perspective and integrate it into the study of social reality.

Identify and measure social vulnerability factors.

Know and use secondary data sources useful for sociology.

Know the institutions of the welfare society that contribute to safeguarding social rights.

Know the tools to intervene in situations of social crisis and conflicts.

Learn independently and develop initiative in the field of sociology.

Manage documentary sources and statistics referring to social reality.

Relate and integrate information on social phenomena from primary and/or secondary sources.

Respect and promote the principles of fundamental rights, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, democratic values and sustainability.

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Understand and analyse the evolution of sociological theory and its main currents and schools.

Understand the cultural diversity of societies.

Understand the political-economic organisation and the historical evolution of contemporary societies at



the global and local level, and their relationship with social dynamics and processes.

Work in a team with a multidisciplinary perspective.

Write reports and diagnoses on social problems.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND ITS COMPONENTS. SYSTEMS OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

The concepts of social structure and social system. The interdependence of its constituent elements. Structural perspectives in the social sciences. Systems of social stratification in history. The social structure in capitalist societies. Introduction to the debate on the duality between structure and human agency.

2. THE ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL CLASSES. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS AND EMPIRICAL MEASUREMENT STRATEGIES

The social structure of contemporary capitalist societies. The expansion of the market, the role of the state and of the different social agents. Sociological perspectives of the social structure: functionalist approaches; neo-Marxist and neo-Weberian approaches. Advanced societies: the welfare state, the middle classes, tendencies towards social polarization and inequality. Empirical measurement strategies for classes and social mobility.

3. OTHER SOCIAL STRATIFICATION PROCESSES

Globalization, migratory processes and their impact on class structure. European countries as complex societies: multi-national (in some cases) and multi-ethnic; their effects. Gender, changes in the construction of gender and their impact on the social structure. Generational differences and their relationships with the social and labor structure. Intersectionality theories.

4. GLOBAL INEQUALITY, STATES AND GLOBALIZATION

The processes of stratification and global inequality, within the framework of globalization. The role of states, value chains and global financial markets. Theories of global convergence, system-world theory and disconnection theory. Social segmentation, global classes and structural crises.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES



Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	10,00
Individual or group project	15,00
Independent study and work	30,00
Preparation of lessons	25,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching strategies to be used in this subject are the following:

- Teaching sessions to explain the concepts, dimensions, analytical interdependencies and empirical data that students must learn to use.
- Reading different texts and materials for comprehension and discussion in class. It will include texts from the basic bibliography, as well as short texts and documents that develop some aspect of the agenda.
- Individual and/or group work, written and/or for oral presentation, about subjects of the program, with reading and other materials, and comment and follow-up in class
- Face-to-face dynamics in the classroom about a topic, searching and processing statistical data, using and producing cross-tables, graphs and interrelations between variables.
- Eventually, sessions, or part of them, may be dedicated to viewing and discussing film documentaries, conferences, etc., linked to the subject of the course.
- Explanation, follow-up and advice by teachers on individual and/or group work as well as on practical data analysis and interpretation exercises. In addition, personalized or group tutoring sessions will be held in order to guide students to successfully carry out the different activities of continuous evaluation.

EVALUATION

The result of the evaluation will come from both the final examination and the practical exercises and activities to be carried out, which will be proposed by each teacher at the beginning of the academic year.



There are two types of evaluation.

1) Continuous modality

2) Unique modality

The modality of continuous evaluation requires the regular presence to class, the participation in the sessions and dynamics, the accomplishment and delivery in time and form of the practical works proposed by the teacher. Continuous evaluation has the following components:

a) 20% of the note will correspond to the dynamics and face-to-face debates, and the practical exercises of search, data processing and statistical data analysis, which will be carried out in person in the classroom or through the virtual classroom.

b) 25% of the note will correspond to one or more individual or group practices about the contents of the programme which will be detailed and specified at the beginning of the course by each teacher.

c) The valuation of regular attendance and the active participation of students in face-to-face classroom sessions, tutorials and, possibly, complementary activities (workshops, seminars, conferences...) may account for up to 5% of the final grade.

d) The exam will constitute 50% of the final score. This test tries to assess the level of systematization of knowledge, taking into account the capacity of analysis and interpretation around the different dimensions and contents worked in the course. Pass the exam is obligatory to pass the course.

Students who do not obtain the pass of the course in the first call, maintain the mark obtained in practices.

The unique evaluation consists only of an examination of the subjects of the course, which accounts for 100% of the final qualification. This modality does not require class attendance or practices; therefore, students who opt for this modality must prove that they know the package of knowledge, approaches and skills developed by the group.

This exam aims to assess the level of systematization of knowledge, taking into account the capacity of analysis and interpretation around the different dimensions and contents worked in the course.

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