



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 34405

Name: Structure and change in contemporary societies

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	Second 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	Second 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

RIUS ULLDEMOLINS JOAQUIM

SUMMARY

This subject is compulsory and worth 6 ECTS credits. It takes place in the second quarter of the second academic year of the degree in Sociology. It is part of the module Sociological Theory, Structure and Social Change.

This subject is eminently theoretical and focuses on the problematic of social change. It consists of 5



teaching units and the objective of the first four are to provide students with the analytical tools necessary for studying social change, as well as the main theoretical interpretations. It will deal with the answers that sociology has given to the question: which are the causes, consequences and direction of social change? The subject will focus especially on evolutionism, historical materialism, cyclical thinking, the theory of modernization and the difficulties off the idea of progress, as well as on the criticism of postmodern thinking. The fifth unit will approach some of the current transformations that are taking place in advanced societies from the 70s to now, the main theories that try to explain them and the possible future trends.

These contents make the subject very useful in relation to professional opportunities linked to the transformation dynamics and social change, as well as emergent social processes of special relevance in present-day society.

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 have a basic knowledge of the subject Introduction to Sociology and of the first-year subjects included in the module Social Sciences as well as of the second-year subject Structure and Social Change, especially those related to social structure in advanced societies.

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.

Conduct comparative studies of the Spanish and Valencian social structure.

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.

Learn independently and develop initiative in the field of sociology.

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.

Work in a team with a multidisciplinary perspective.

Write reports and diagnoses on social problems.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Social change

Introduction to the concepts of social change and persistence and definitions of the exchange rate
The emergence of modern society. Theories of Western thought: of the idea of progress in the concept of modernity

Part I. Evolutionism, consensus theories and social change conflict

Sociological theories about social change based on differentiation. Durkheim and functionalism



2. Classical sociology of social change

Part I. Evolutionism, consensus theories and social change conflict

Sociological theories about social change based on the conflict Marx, dialectical materialism and Marxist tradition

Part II Ideas and circular theories and elites

Ideas as a factor of change: Max Weber. Cultural factors as agents of change

Circular theories, the development of civilizations and elites as a factor of change

3. Factors and actors of change.

Historical sociology, the macro-sociological change: nationalism, labor movement, war, state and revolutionary change

Neoevolutionism and the theories of modernization. Structure and technology as a factor of social change

Other factors and agents of change: conflict and collective action

4. Recent trends in advanced societies

The crisis of modernity and the debate on postmodernity.

Internet, technological change and digital society.

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	20,00
Independent study and work	30,00
Preparation of lessons	20,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY



Participatory lecture.

Troubleshooting.

Case studies.

Debates.

Cooperative work.

Discussion sessions and group analysis from materials such as films, documentaries, exhibitions, conferences, etc..

Reading, synthesis, analysis and criticism of texts.

EVALUATION

The final grade will result from the combination of the grade obtained in the final examination plus the practical activities and exercises. Active participation in class and well-founded discussion on class contents will be positively considered. It is necessary to obtain at least a 5 in the exams and in the continuous evaluation to be able to average and pass the subject.

a. The final examination will account among 50% and 60% (see Especifications of DG) of the final grade and will be aimed at the assessment of specific knowledge, ability of analysis and interpretation of contents.

b. The remaining 50% or 40% of the grade will correspond to the practical formative activities carried out throughout the course.

In order to pass the subject students must pass both parts (final examination and activities). Grading criteria will be the following:

- Adaptation of the answers to the question asked.
- Degree of development of the competences related to the objectives of the subject.
- Composition coherence and clarity.
- Analytical depth and originality of answers.
- Appropriate formal presentation.



Resits will follow the same criteria. It is not necessary to repeat the activities submitted during the course.

REFERENCES

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