

**COURSE DATA****Data Subject**

<b>Code</b>	34404
<b>Name</b>	Social structure and change
<b>Cycle</b>	Grade
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Academic year</b>	2019 - 2020

**Study (s)**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Center</b>	<b>Acad. year</b>	<b>Period</b>
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Faculty of Social Sciences	2	First term
1924 - D.D. in Political and Public Admin. Sciences-Sociology	Faculty of Law	3	First term
1925 - D.D. in Sociology-Political and Public Admin. Sciences	Faculty of Social Sciences	3	First term

**Subject-matter**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Subject-matter</b>	<b>Character</b>
1310 - Degree in Sociology	3 - Social structure and change	Obligatory
1924 - D.D. in Political and Public Admin. Sciences-Sociology	4 - Year 3 compulsory subjects	Obligatory
1925 - D.D. in Sociology-Political and Public Admin. Sciences	4 - Year 3 compulsory subjects	Obligatory

**Coordination**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
PERELLO TOMAS, VICENTA DE FATIMA	330 - Sociology and Social Anthropology

**SUMMARY**

This course begins with the presentation of the macro-sociological perspective, the polysemy of the concept "social structure", the main analytical fields that make up the structural reality, as well as the debate about the relationship between the conditioning of the structure and the transformation capacity of the social agency



The basis of the subject is the question: “Which social groups take up the most socially valuable resources and why?” The different stratification systems throughout history and especially that of contemporary societies are approached, with special focus on the understanding of the mechanisms of social stratification and the analysis of social classification. So are aspects related to the factors sex-gender, race-ethnic group and age-generation, given their relationship with class position and their importance when characterizing the processes of social stratification characteristic of modern and advanced societies. Finally we will deal with social mobility, as well as inequality and stratification from a global perspective, particularly relevant in a globalized world like ours.

These contents make the subject very useful in relation to professional opportunities linked to the analysis of social structure and the understanding of emergent transformations that cause social inequality.

## 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 Introdu

## OUTCOMES

### 1310 - Degree in Sociology

- 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 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 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.



- Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.
- Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.
- Write reports and diagnoses on social problems.
- Work in a team with a multidisciplinary perspective.
- Clearly communicate theories, problems and proposals of a sociological nature, both orally and in writing, using new information and communication technologies.
- Apply the principles of the professional code of ethics of sociology and develop a commitment to social problems.
- Respect and promote the principles of fundamental rights, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, democratic values and sustainability.
- Manage documentary sources and statistics referring to social reality.
- Learn independently and develop initiative in the field of sociology.
- Analyse contemporary society, its structure and dynamics based on sociological concepts and theories.
- Understand and analyse the evolution of sociological theory and its main currents and schools.
- Develop gender perspective and integrate it into the study of social reality.
- Analyse empirical data on social structure, change and problems.
- Describe and explain social inequalities based on social theories and indicators and detect emerging processes.
- Know and use secondary data sources useful for sociology.
- Relate and integrate information on social phenomena from primary and/or secondary sources.
- Analyse social phenomena adopting a multidisciplinary perspective (sociological, psychosocial, economic, political, historical and anthropological).
- 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.
- Know the institutions of the welfare society that contribute to safeguarding social rights.
- Understand the cultural diversity of societies.
- Know the tools to intervene in situations of social crisis and conflicts.
- Identify and measure social vulnerability factors.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES



On successful completion of this course, the / the student will be able to:

- Indicate the analytical possibilities of the concept "social structure".
- Explain the interdependencies among the most important components of the social structure.
- Define the characteristics of the different systems of social stratification.
- Interpret the meaning of basic statistical indicators that measure social inequality.
- Identify substantive differences between the various theories of social classes.
- Meet some of the schemes and classifications that allow empirical measurement classes.
- Understand the data presented in a table of social mobility.
- Play the arguments that are the basis of the theories of social reproduction.
- Describe the processes that characterize emerging global stratification.
- Obtain information independently from secondary sources available in network.
- Practice positive communication in personal interactions; develop reasoned explanation based arguments; progress in reading comprehension of sociological texts and improve the ability to synthesize in oral or written descriptions.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. The concept of social structure. Components.

The macro-sociological perspective on social science. The concepts of structure, social structure and social system, and its elements. The four fields or interdependent subsystems (the demographic, economic, political, and cultural) that make up the structure of advanced modern societies. Duality dialogic structure - social action: an introduction.

### 2. The systems of social stratification.

Social structure, inequality and stratification. Different systems of social stratification: characteristics and process of legitimation. Main factors of stratification in advanced modern societies. Welfare regimes and social inequality measure: key indicators. Inequality and poverty.

### 3. The analysis of social classes.

Classical theories: K. Marx, the critical perspective of the conflict; M. Weber, multidimensional perspective of the conflict. Modern theories: the functionalist and conflict theory of R. Dahrendorf. Contemporary theories: theories of conflict of F. Parkin and R. Miliband, and critical theory of E. O. Wright. Current debates about social classes: mediated positions, by the gender and the generations; the precariat as a new social class..

### 4. The empirical measures of social classes. Social mobility.

The proposals and studies of Goldthorpe on mobility. Relational mapping class (proposals for Wright and Goldthorpe). Prestige scales, indices of socioeconomic status and occupational classifications. Social mobility and empirical models of achievement. Criticism of the models of achievement from the theories of social reproduction.



**5. Global inequality and stratification**

Globalization, individualization and risk. Global inequality and stratification: the thesis of modernization and convergence. Theories of dependency and the theory of disengagement. System theory - world: the competition for hegemony on the system center. The new global classes: strategies of disconnection of the elites, processes of expulsion from the precariat.

**WORKLOAD**

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00	100
Attendance at events and external activities	10,00	0
Development of group work	15,00	0
Study and independent work	20,00	0
Readings supplementary material	10,00	0
Preparation of evaluation activities	10,00	0
Preparing lectures	10,00	0
Preparation of practical classes and problem	15,00	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150,00</b>	

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

Teaching strategies to be used in this course are:

a) Sessions of explanation by the faculty of concepts, dimensions, and interdependencies analytical and empirical data that the students must learn to manage. This is a starting point to promote understanding and systematization of the main aspects related to the objectives of the course, as they are developed in the program.

b) Reading the various texts and materials for their understanding and eventually public discussion. Basically these materials will be of two types:

- Short texts to read and work in class, which will aim to introduce a controversial or problematic aspect of the agenda items.
- Text of the basic literature of the subject that must be read and worked complementary to the teacher explications.
  - Texts belonging to a complementary bibliography, more specific that the previous, that will allow the preparation detailed and deep of the arguments and authors worked in each one of the subjects. This bibliography will not have compulsory character although his reading will be recommended.



- c) Eventualmente, will be able to devote some sessions to the discussion and group analysis from different materials such as films, documentaries, conferences, etc., which will be different contrasting exercises, comparison and criticism aimed at raising new questions about the contents of the subject. Some of these sessions could be held from cross-cutting activities that teachers of design and offer to the students.
- d) The realisation of the corresponding works to the continuous evaluation, to which will allocate part of the face-to-face sessions through the preparation, reading or critical discussion of the corresponding material chosen by the profesorado
- e) For more specific guidance is important to note the importance of mentoring, customized to become one of the key elements of these teaching strategies. Tutoring sessions will be developed in both group and individual, and so at the request of and students as suggested by the faculty.

## EVALUATION

The result of the evaluation would come both from the final exam as practical activities and exercises to perform, and that will be proposed by each teacher at the beginning of the academic year.

The components of the evaluation are the following:

- a) 10% of the grade will correspond to the practical exercises that will be carried out in person in the classroom or through the virtual classroom task platform. Some of these activities will be oral, others written; Sometimes they will have to be done individually, sometimes as a team.
- b) 20% of the grade will correspond to a work of deepening in the contents of the subject, and that will be specified at the beginning of the course by each teacher (search and analysis of secondary sources, collective sessions of documentary discussion, preparation of group work , critical discussion of readings, presentation of specific topics, etc.).
- c) The assessment of regular attendance and active participation of students in classroom sessions, tutorials and, eventually, complementary activities (workshops, seminars, conferences ...) may involve up to 10% of the final grade .
- d) The exam will represent 60% of the final grade. This test aims to assess the level of systematization of knowledge, taking into account the ability of analysis and interpretation around the different dimensions and content worked on in the subject.



Students who do not obtain the approved of the subject in the first call, may be submitted to the second following these criteria. In the second call it will not be necessary to repeat the practical activities already carried out throughout the semester.

## REFERENCES

### Basic

- Kerbo, Harold R., Estratificación social y desigualdad. El conflicto de clase en perspectiva histórica, comparada y global, Madrid, McGraw Hill, 2004.
- Requena, Miguel, Leire Salazar y Jonas Radl, Estratificación social, Madrid, McGraw-Hill, 2013.
- Giner, Salvador, Emilio Lamo de Espinosa y Cristóbal Torres (eds.), Diccionario de Sociología, Madrid, Alianza, 2006.
- Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS), <http://www.cis.es/cis/opencms/ES/index.html>
- EUROSTAT, <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics>
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), <http://www.ine.es>
- FOESSA, <http://www.foessa.org>

### Additional

- Bauman, Zygmunt, y Carlo Bordoni, Estado de crisis. Barcelona: Paidós, 2016.
- Carabaña, Julio y Andrés de Francisco (eds.), Teorías contemporáneas de las clases sociales, Madrid, Pablo Iglesias, 1995.
- Crompton, Rosemary, Clase y estratificación, Madrid, Tecnos, 2013.
- Giddens, Anthony, La estructura de clases en las sociedades avanzadas, Madrid, Alianza, 1996.
- Sassen, Saskia, Expulsiones. Brutalidad y complejidad en la economía global. Madrid: Katz Editores, 2015.
- Sennett, Richard, La corrosión del carácter. La cultura del nuevo capitalismo. Barcelona: Anagrama, 2006.
- Wright, Erik O., Clases, Madrid, Siglo XXI, 1994.
- Ariño, Antonio y Juan Romero, La secesión de los ricos. Barcelona: Galaxia Gutenberg, 2016.
- Zafra, Remedios, El entusiasmo. Precariedad y trabajo creativo en la era digital. Barcelona: Anagrama, 2017.
- Held, David y Anthony McGrew, Globalización/Antiglobalización. Sobre la reconstrucción del orden mundial. Barcelona: Paidós, 2003.



## **ADDENDUM COVID-19**

This addendum will only be activated if the health situation requires so and with the prior agreement of the Governing Council

**English version is not available**