



**COURSE DATA**

**Data Subject**

<b>Code</b>	34405
<b>Name</b>	Structure and change in contemporary societies
<b>Cycle</b>	Grade
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Academic year</b>	2023 - 2024

**Study (s)**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Center</b>	<b>Acad. year</b>	<b>Period</b>
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Faculty of Social Sciences	2	Second term
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Faculty of Law	3	Second term
1925 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Faculty of Social Sciences	3	Second term
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Faculty of Social Sciences	3	Second term

**Subject-matter**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Subject-matter</b>	<b>Character</b>
1310 - Degree in Sociology	3 - Social structure and change	Obligatory
1924 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	4 - Year 3 compulsory subjects	Obligatory
1925 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	4 - Year 3 compulsory subjects	Obligatory
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	3 - Asignaturas obligatorias de tercer curso	Obligatory

**Coordination****Name**

RIUS ULLDEMOLINS, JOAQUIM

**Department**

330 - Sociology and Social Anthropology

**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 (RD 1393/2007) // LEARNING OUTCOMES (RD 822/2021)**



### 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.
- Learn independently and develop initiative in the field of sociology.
- Analyse contemporary society, its structure and dynamics based on sociological concepts and theories.
- Develop gender perspective and integrate it into the study of social reality.
- Conduct comparative studies of the Spanish and Valencian social structure.
- 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).
- Identify and measure social vulnerability factors.



## **LEARNING OUTCOMES (RD 1393/2007) // NO CONTENT (RD 822/2021)**

Upon successful completion of the subject, students must be able to:

- Describe, identify and learn to use the analytical possibilities of the concept "social change" in contemporary societies.
- Describe, identify and interpret contemporary society, its dynamics and transformation.
- Define the characteristics of contemporary societies in different areas Identify future trends of contemporary societies and the ability to redirect the social actor.
- Identify the relationships of domination and legitimation systems of contemporary societies.

## **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

### **2. Classical sociology of social change**

Part I. Evolutionism, consensus theories and social change conflict  
Sociological theories about social change based on differentiation. Durkheim and functionalism  
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**

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00	100
Attendance at events and external activities	10,00	0
Development of individual work	20,00	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	10,00	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150,00</b>	

**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

### Basic

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### Additional

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- Aron, R. (1994). *Les etapes del pensament sociològic*, vol. I. Barcelona: Herder.
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