

Social Change and Globalisation

Code: 101144
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500262 Sociology	OB	3	1
2503778 International Relations	OB	3	1

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Francesc Muñoz Pradas
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Prerequisites

The general official criteria.

Objectives and Contextualisation

A number of international associations and agencies have described the context of this subject. This course aims at teaching to state specialised judgements on social changes, development and globalisation by drawing on different specialties in the social sciences, mostly sociology, but also anthropology, demography, economics, geography or political sciences. Students will be stimulated to work on their own and improve their communicative skills. The relevance of these three topics (social changes, development and globalisation) has been widely recognised in the context of contemporary social transformations, as well as their intimate connection with such sociological issues as inequalities and power.

- The International Sociological Association includes the Research Committee on Social Transformations and Sociology of Development (ISA RC-09) strives to represent sociologists interested in the study of social transformations and development around the world, regardless of their theoretical persuasion, methodological approaches or ideological perspective (<http://www.isa-sociology.org>)

- UNESCO runs the Programme on the Management of Social Transformations (MOST). It acknowledges that the "UNESCO mandate to promote social sciences is more relevant than ever because of the globalization of social issues and the increasing need for their global governance" (UNESCO 186 EX/10 document (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org>))

- The Comparative Research Programme on Poverty and the *Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales* collaborate in research on the social causes of poverty. In their view, the dominant global regime fails by and large in human-rights terms by perpetuating poverty and dependence and by bringing on new risks and

vulnerabilities with which the poor are least able to cope: economic crises, for example, as well as environmental degradation, resource depletion, climate change, and extreme weather events. Yet, this regime also includes some positive elements - such as the recognition of human rights, women's rights, equality and non-discrimination standards, labour rights and environmental protections - which were typically gained by activists from South and North in protracted struggles and now provide openings in many countries for the poor and disenfranchised to hold their governments to account and to protect their human rights. Building on these achievements, CROP will work for the prominent incorporation of the imperative of poverty avoidance into the design of the global institutional order. Such incorporation in turn requires a much fuller understanding of the nature, extent, depth, distribution, trends, causes and effects of poverty (CROP <http://www.crop.org>, CLACSO <http://www.clacso.org.ar>)

- The Committee on Global Thought uses its research and programs to connect the social sciences with an increasingly global society through collaborative workshops, seminar courses and community events. The Committee on Global Thought recognizes that many of the world's problems, such as poverty, inequality and governance, fall increasingly in the spaces between academic disciplines (<http://cgt.columbia.edu>)

- El Centro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Demografía (CELADE) se guía por un claro objetivo: hacer un aporte al conocimiento de los diversos aspectos de los temas de población, que permita elaborar y aplicar políticas que apunten a lograr la igualdad y el respeto de los derechos humanos. Los problemas y desafíos de la adolescencia y juventud latinoamericanas; el envejecimiento de la población y la situación de las personas mayores; la desigualdad que afecta a los pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes; las variadas dimensiones de la migración internacional en América Latina; la migración interna; la segregación residencial; la fecundidad adolescente y su presencia pertinaz en la región; la pobreza y la vulnerabilidad social son algunos de los temas abordados por la serie del CELADE (<http://www.cepal.org>)

Competences

Sociology

- Analysing the problems arising from the implementation of public policies and conflict situations by recognising the complexity of the social phenomena and political decisions affecting democracy, human rights, social justice and sustainable development.
- Applying the concepts and approaches of the sociological theory, specially the explanations of social inequalities between classes, between genders and between ethnic groups, to the implementation of public policies and to the resolution of conflict situations.
- Demonstrating a comprehension of the analysis of social phenomena presented in English, as well as observing their strengths and weaknesses.
- Demonstrating a comprehension of the analysis of social structure, specially in the explanations of the most common inequalities in social sciences between social classes, genders and ethnic majorities or minorities.
- Demonstrating a comprehension of the approaches of the sociological theory in its different aspects, interpretations and historical context.
- Describing social phenomena in a theoretically relevant way, bearing in mind the complexity of the involved factors, its causes and its effects.
- Developing self-learning strategies.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Searching for documentary sources starting from concepts.
- Students must be capable of assessing the quality of their own work.
- Students must be capable of managing their own time, planning their own study, managing the relationship with their tutor or adviser, as well as setting and meeting deadlines for a work project.

International Relations

- Analyse cases and phenomena in the international sphere and interpret different political texts using contemporary political theories.
- Analyse the structure and operation of international institutions and organisations (political, economic, military and security, environmental, development and emergency aid) both in the universal and regional spheres, with particular emphasis on the European Union, from either real or simulated cases.
- Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.

- Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
- Identify the main theories of international relations and their different fields (international theory, conflicts and security, international politics, etc.) to apply them in professional practice.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Use English to receive and communicate analyses and proposals.
- Use different tools for analysing the contemporary international system and its functional and regional or geographical subsystems.
- Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply different theoretical focuses to the analysis of the international system and its subsystems and international European politics.
2. Apply different theoretical focuses, with a constructivist approach, to the actions of international organisations.
3. Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
4. Apply the variety of ideological readings of inequality to a country other than Spain.
5. Comparing the different theoretical approaches about social structure.
6. Comparing these explanations in different countries.
7. Define and relate the main analytical concepts of international relation with the process of European integration.
8. Defining the involvement of the main sociological debates about social structure.
9. Defining the most common concepts used to explain inequalities.
10. Defining the necessary concepts in order to understand the social structure.
11. Demonstrating a comprehension of the analysis of social phenomena presented in English, as well as observing their strengths and weaknesses.
12. Develop and acquire deeper historical, theoretical and conceptual knowledge of the origins, external relations and political processes of the European Union (EU).
13. Developing self-learning strategies.
14. Evaluate case studies of change and continuity in the international system, in the main regional subsystems (European, American, Asian) and in the subsystems of economy and security.
15. Expressing the debates regarding these approaches, that refer to the social structure.
16. Identify and analyse the different information sources on the international relations of the EU.
17. Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
18. Identifying the involvement of these approaches in order to understand the social structure.
19. Identifying their validity to explain the social reality of Spain and Catalonia.
20. Relating the definitions and explanations of inequality with general theoretical and methodological debates.
21. Relating these general debates with their epistemological and ethical assumptions.
22. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
23. Searching for documentary sources starting from concepts.
24. Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
25. Students must be capable of assessing the quality of their own work.
26. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
27. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

28. Students must be capable of managing their own time, planning their own study, managing the relationship with their tutor or adviser, as well as setting and meeting deadlines for a work project.
29. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
30. Understand the process of European political integration in the context of the Cold War.
31. Use English to receive and communicate analyses and proposals.
32. Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.
33. Use theoretical and meta-theoretical focuses to analyse the impact of globalisation on security, the economy and society on both a transnational and national scale and in different international organisations.

Content

1. Global governance and social change
2. States, markets and socio-economic changes
3. Demography and development.
4. The economic sociology of global value chains and financialisation.
5. Europeanisation, politics and social movements in a globalised world.
6. Social inequalities across complex geographical scales

Methodology

The course will consist of general lectures and two sets of seminars. Basically, the lectures will focus on the main topics included in the syllabus. In the Sociology seminars, students will discuss the compulsory reading list and analyse a sample of case studies where the main theories are illustrated. In the Demography seminars, students will learn the basics of demography and its contribution to the analysis of development.

Full details on the work plan and schedule will be published through the Virtual Campus.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Demography Seminars	15	0.6	4, 25, 23, 11, 13, 20, 22
Lectures	24	0.96	6, 8, 11, 21, 20
Sociology seminars	15	0.6	4, 25, 6, 8, 11, 13, 21, 20, 22
Type: Supervised			
Consultation	15	0.6	25, 23, 11, 13, 28
Writing assignments	7	0.28	25
Type: Autonomous			
Analysis	24	0.96	25, 23, 6, 8, 11, 13, 28, 22
Reading	43	1.72	4, 25, 6, 8, 11, 13, 28, 21, 20

Assessment

The assessment system of this subject consists of activities that students will carry out during the whole course. However, students will be able to take a second chance examination according to determinate conditions.

Students will pass if they succeed in the continuous assessment system, including demography (40%), readings (30%) as well as an essay on globalisation (30%). Teachers will provide support so that all students can do these activities properly. At least, this support will consist of providing feedback in seminars or in tutorials. In order to pass, it is indispensable that any student has delivered the three activities, has passed at least two of them, and has achieved an average grade above 5. Students will fail the whole course, and will not be allowed to take a resit examination, if they either achieve an average grade below 3.5 or fails to deliver two activities.

Students will have to take the second chance examination if they have delivered at least two activities and have achieved a grade between 3.5 and 4.9. The students who have failed more than one activity will also have to take the examination although their average grade exceeds 5. In contrast, the students who have not delivered at least two of the three activities of the continuous assessment system will not be allowed to take the resit examination and will fail the whole course.

The second chance examination will be based on the three activities included in the continuous assessment system (i.e. readings, essay and demography exercises). Each of the two teaching groups (morning and afternoon) will announce the mode of the examination (either on site or on line). Whatever the mode, both the date of on-site examination and the deadline of on-line delivery will coincide with the day officially established by the Faculty. In order to pass the resit examination, it is necessary to answer all the questions. The grade of the second chance examination will substitute all the grades of the continuous assessmentsystem. At most, this grade will be 5.

The students who repeat this course must contact their lecturer during the first week of the teaching period.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Demographic analysis of development in a country	40%	3	0.12	1, 2, 4, 3, 32, 25, 23, 6, 5, 9, 10, 7, 8, 11, 13, 12, 30, 15, 28, 17, 16, 18, 19, 29, 27, 24, 26, 21, 20, 22, 33, 31, 14
Questions on the reading list	30%	2	0.08	4, 25, 6, 8, 28, 21, 20
Writing an essay on globalisation	30%	2	0.08	4, 3, 32, 25, 23, 6, 8, 11, 13, 28, 17, 21, 20, 22, 31, 14

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