

Social Structure

Code: 100475
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

| Degree | Type | Year |
|-------------|------|------|
| Criminology | FB | 1 |

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

The course will be held according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) perspective.

The theoretical lessons will be taught in Catalan and the seminars in both Catalan and Spanish (seminar 13)

Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the analysis and understanding of the processes of structuring and social stratification: how the map of social inequality is constructed and reproduced and which social groups are generated from the different axes of social structuring: class, age, gender and ethnicity.

Learning Outcomes

1. CM13 (Competence) To expose to a specialized public the structural factors that explain the territorial concentration of crime.
2. KM11 (Knowledge) Clearly define the axes of social inequality and its impact on the explanation of crime.
3. SM16 (Skill) To design a criminological investigation that attends to structural factors.
4. SM17 (Skill) Make structural comparisons that affect crime between countries.

Content

1. Social structure and inequality: origin and type of inequality. Because inequality is social. Social structure and groups.
2. What to understand by social structure. Structure and stratification.
3. State, market and civil society in the configuration of the map of social inequalities. The reproduction and legitimization of inequality.

4. Axes of social structuring in modern society: social classes.
5. Axes of social structuring in modern society: age.
6. Axes of social structuring in modern society: gender.
7. Axes of social structuring in modern society: ethnicity.
8. Social change and individual mobility.
9. Processes of social exclusion and inclusion.
10. Inequality and the environment.
11. The agents of social change. Old and new social movements.

Activities and Methodology

| Title | Hours | ECTS | Learning Outcomes |
|--|-------|------|-------------------|
| <hr/> | | | |
| Type: Directed | | | |
| Lectures. | 19.5 | 0.78 | |
| Seminars. Cooperative learning process (working in small groups) and mixed methodology (bi-directional). | 19.5 | 0.78 | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Type: Autonomous | | | |
| Evaluation. | 5 | 0.2 | |
| Student external work | 106 | 4.24 | |
| <hr/> | | | |

The teaching methodology combines, on the one hand, the lectures given by the teacher in the lectures, where students are expected to participate in the debates that will take place in the classroom; and on the other, workshops that will require a more active and protagonist participation from the students, since they will consist of the realization of presentations of readings, debates around the same and the realization of practical exercises related to the development of the group work.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

| Title | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning Outcomes |
|--|-----------|-------|------|------------------------|
| Collective working paper on one of the several subjects proposed to the students | 30% | 0 | 0 | CM13, KM11, SM16, SM17 |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|---|---|------------------------|
| Final exam on the contents of the course (compulsory readings and theoretical lectures) | 50% | 0 | 0 | KM11, SM17 |
| Participation in the seminars and group presentation based on one of the compulsory readings | 20% | 0 | 0 | CM13, KM11, SM16, SM17 |

The final mark of the subject will be the result of combining different types of exercises

- A final exam (50% of the final grade)
- A group work (30% of the final grade)
- Attendance and participation in the seminars (20% of the final grade)

In the seminars students will receive orientations for the realization of the group work

To pass the subject, between all three qualifications, students need to obtain a minimum of 5 in the final exam.

The subject requires regular attendance to lectures and seminars, as well as continuous work by the student.

Students must attend at least 80% of classes (not counting excused absences) to pass the subject. Absences can only be justified for reasons of illness, force majeure and other academic reasons previously authorized by the teaching team.

Resit: both the exam and the group work may be object of resit, through individual exercises, on the dates established in the academic calendar

Cheating or attempting to cheat on the exam will result in failing with a zero, as well as the loss of the right to resit. Plagiarism in essays will imply also a zero grade, without possibility of resit.

Classes start on time. Students must be punctual.

The student will be only assessed when having carried out activities whose weight is equivalent to at least 2/3 of the total qualification of the subject. If the qualification of the activities previously mentioned does not reach this threshold, the student might be considered as not evaluable.

Single Assessment

It will consist of the following three evaluable activities:

- A final exam on the contents of the book Requena and others (2024), plus the mandatory bibliography (digital campus) (60%)
- Realization of an oral presentation of 10' duration where the student will have to explain what social classes are and their validity for the analysis of contemporary social structures (20%)
- Practical individual work: make a press dossier, with a minimum of 5 articles or journalistic references, commented, that deal with conflicts typical of the processes of the social structure in Catalonia during the period 2020-2023 (20%), with oral presentation, 10' long.

Bibliography single evaluation:

- Requena, M.; Salazar, L.; Rald, J. (2024). Estratificación Social. UNED-McGraw-Hill
- The mandatory bibliography (digital campus)

Bibliography

The mandatory reading bibliography, and therefore evaluable content, is compiled in a dossier of readings accessible through the virtual campus

For a better understanding of the concepts presented in class, you can refer to the following bibliography:

2. REFERENCE MANUALS

Kerbo, H. (2004). *Estratificación social y desigualdad*. McGRAW-HILL

Macgarvey, D. (2018). *Safari en la pobreza*. Capitán Swing

Miguel, F., Garcia, T., Rebollo, O., Sanchez, C., Romero, A. (1997). *Desigualtat i canvi*. Proa/UAB

Piketty, T. (2021). *Breve historia de la igualdad*. Deusto

Rendueles, C. (2020). *Contra la igualdad de oportunidades*. Seix Barral

Requena, M., Salazar, L., Radl, J. (2024). *Estratificación social*. UNED. MacGraw-Hill

Servigne, P., Stevens, R. (2020). *Colapsología*. Arpa

Wilkinson, R.G & K. Pickett (2009). *Desigualdad: Un análisis de la (in)felicidad colectiva*. Turner

Wilkinson, R.G & K. Pickett (2009). *Igualdad*. Capitan Swing

Software

No software will be used in the course.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

| Name | Group | Language | Semester | Turn |
|--|-------|----------|-----------------|---------------|
| (SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup) | 11 | Catalan | second semester | morning-mixed |
| (SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup) | 12 | Catalan | second semester | morning-mixed |
| (SEM30) Seminaris (30 estudiants per grup) | 13 | Spanish | second semester | morning-mixed |
| (TE) Theory | 1 | Catalan | second semester | morning-mixed |