Course: Sociology I  
Code: 10BBA00800  

Type: Required  
Year: 1  
Semester: 1  
ECTS credits: 6  
Language: Spanish  
Coordination:  

Faculty:  
Josep Miralles Massanés  
Lluís Sáez Giol  

Prerequisites:  

Prior knowledge:  

Workload distribution:  

Lectures  21 hours  
Participatory sessions  45 hours  
Independent work  108 hours  
Tutorials / feedback  6 hours  

Course contribution to the programme:  

Companies do business in markets, and markets, in turn, are part of increasingly interrelated societies. That is why training future professionals in business administration means training people who are aware of their responsibilities as citizens with a fully developed sense of justice and genuine human qualities.  

Sociology I looks at the relationship between the person, social groups and society as a whole, and helps future executives look critically at the social conditioning which influences their own lives, creating awareness, both as citizens and as professionals, about their ability to change society through freely assumed values.  

To achieve this, the course looks at ways of analysing social reality; it encourages critical thought; and tries to put events into a historical and global/local vision of society.  

Course learning objectives:  

A. Become aware of the extent to which society’s conditioning can influences individuals.  
B. Understand the techno-economic, social, political and cultural environment of business organisations.  
C. Understand the analytical method studied and learn how to apply it to real situations.  
D. Analyse and comprehend the capacity people and organisations have to transform social reality.  
E. Possess a capacity for critical thought and self-assessment.  
F. Be able to use intellectual tools to connect, compare and analyse theories, worldviews, ideologies, etc.  
G. Acquire a certain level of sensitivity, responsibility, and human values and quality, with particular emphasis on students’ future positions as executives.
H. Instil a global/local vision of reality which could form the basis of real civic commitment

Skills developed:

- Ability to acquire, understand and structure basic knowledge, creating a capacity for thought and questioning, as well as a critical view of social reality.
- Ability to apply knowledge in order to obtain the methodological skill needed to analyse social reality.

Contents and methodology:
FIRST MODULE

Block 1. Introduction

- Contents:

  The individual-society relationship: P. L. Berger Model.
  The challenges of society as a whole: Survival, coexistence, meaning and values.

- Activities, modalities and times:

  In each thematic section the activities will be as follows, except for the 4 tutorials which will be distributed throughout the course, and the special lectures which will be programmed as needed:

  Lectures 1.5 hours or conference
  Participatory sessions 1.5 hours
  Reading assessment 0.5 hours
  Text commentary 1 hour
  Independent work 2 hours
  Tutorial 1 hour

- Materials:

  Students will be given a single volume containing readings for study and texts for analysis and commentary.

Block 2. The individual in society. Social position.

- Contents:

  Social stratification criteria.
  Class, power and status.
  Social structure in developed and developing countries.
  Process of institutionalisation.
  Social control.
  The historical and therefore changeable character of these structures.

Block 3. Society in the individual (1)

- Contents:

  Socialisation processes.
  Reference groups.
Ideologies.

Block 4. Society in the individual (2): The cultural system
- Contents:

  Human anthropological structure.
  Elements of culture.
  Functions of culture.
  Peoples and identities.
  Pluralism and intercultural dialogue.

Block 5. Society in the individual (3): The cultural system and religions
- Contents:

  Religions and religiosity.
  Sociological interpretations of religion.
  The structure of the religious universe.
  Types of religiosity.

Block 6. The great transformation: Traditional societies, modernisation processes and contemporary transformations
- Contents:

  Typical cultural traits of each social organisation model. Characteristics of modernity and post-modernity.

Block 7. Individuals as agents of social transformation
- Contents:

  Anthropological structure of the human being and freedom.
  The ‘Conditioned Freedom’ of the individual and ‘Bad Faith’.
  Social change: Concept and examples.
  Factors of social change.
  Agents of social change: Leadership, elites, social movements, and pressure groups. The various types of transforming power.
  The company and the economic world as factor and agent of social change.
  The relationship between the individual and the collective agents of social change.

SECOND MODULE

Historical-methodological introduction. Liberalism (I)
- Contents:

  Function and objectives of the second module.
  Common thread and overall design of the second module.
  The company’s social and cultural environment.
  Personal situation and self-awareness in the business world
A social analysis model and its concepts or key levels: Techno-economic, socio-political structure, AND culture:

a) Specificity and autonomy at each level
b) Interrelation between the levels
c) Their explanatory capacity in “static” analysis
d) Their explanatory capacity in “dynamic” analysis
e) The “challenge” which they address
f) The terminology used for each concept or level

Liberal-capitalist industrialisation: The ‘explosive process’ in the West during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Liberalism’s techno-economic axis:

a) The “governing idea” of the market
b) The theoretical and practical conditions for the possibility of existence of “the market” and its most contradictory aspects

Liberalism’s cultural axis: The Protestant ethic and the spirit of Capitalism

Block 9. Liberalism (II) and Socialism
- Contents:

The socio-political and cultural bases of liberalism (continued). Socialist trends and the break with bases of liberalism questioned or denied by the market (individualism, harmonies of exchange, non-intervention of the state, attainment of freedom etc.). Socialism as a proposal.

The basic tenets of Marxist theory:

a) The base-superstructure paradigm
b) The historic role and ‘need’ for class struggle
c) The concept of revolution
d) The socialisation of the means of production as a “key action”
e) The class nature of the state
f) The appreciation for ideology
g) The concept of work and the analysis of exploitation

Block 10. The Welfare State
- Contents:

The Welfare State as social-liberal pact.
Functions of the Welfare State.
Changes in social structure.
Changes in the political dimension.
Changes in the cultural dimension.
Block 11. North-South. The Third World

- Contents:

Historical phases of the Third World.
Four causes of economic stagnation in the Third World: Productivity, specialisation, industrialisation and demography.
Five reasons for the failure of the Third World.
Future directions and proposals.

Block 12. Society and political power

- Contents:

Introduction: The faces of power.
Structure and forms of power.
Strategy of control and regulation of power.

a. Driving historical trends:
   - from absolute to limited
   - from abstentionist to interventionist
   - from charismatic to technocratic
   - from national to supranational
b. Concentration/dispersal of political power in the state:
   - from closed society to open society (Popper)

Criteria of political obligation, principals and mechanisms of legitimisation: The state and civil society.

a) The various forms of state and civil society
b) The evolution of state-society relations
c) Current challenges facing state-society relations

Block 13. The State of Law

- Contents:

The general characteristics of the State.
The political principles and ideological elements of the absolute State.
The State of Law.
From the classical liberal State to the democratic liberal State.
The main liberal principles (rule of law, legality, division of power and guarantee of constitutional rights).
The democratisation process in the State of Law (universal suffrage, representative democracy, party system, etc.).
Breaks with the liberal State: Communism and Fascism.
Reform of the liberal State: The Social State of Law.
Evolution of the Social State of Law.

Block 14. The State and International society
Contents:

What is international society and what are its specific characteristics? Internationality and transnationality. Old and new types of international agents. The old and new role of the State in the framework of international society.

The classic bipolar division of the world.
New factors and effects as the international system changes.
The new role of the State in an interdependent world.

From "sovereign community" (the State) to "community sovereignty" (Europe). The repercussions of European integration.

Evaluation:

The system used to assess the course objectives mentioned earlier includes partial tests taken at the end of each course block, text commentaries, attendance of lectures and participatory sessions, attendance of set lectures, completion of set written work, attitude and involvement, and the final exam.

In all cases, assessment is viewed as a tool that is not only quantitative but also formative. As a result, the faculty will focus on assessing students' progress as part of a continuous, ongoing process.

All course activities (session tests, text commentary, participation and attitude during the lectures and participatory sessions, additional lectures, written work, etc.) represent a total of 50% of the final mark, with the final exam making up the remaining 50%. The final course mark will be the average between the mark for class activities and the mark for the final exam. However, this average will only be possible if students score a 5 or higher (out of 10) in each of the two components. If students score less than 5 on one of the two components, the final mark for the class will be the lowest mark of the two.

With respect to the mark for the final exam, the following has to be taken into consideration. Upon completing the First Module of this course, a partial exam will be given. If students' score a 5 or higher on this exam, said mark will be averaged with the mark on the exam given for the Second Module at the end of the course (and so long as students score a 5 or higher on this exam).

Should students not successfully pass the First Module exam, a second exam will be given at the time the Second Module exam is also given. In this case as well, the marks on both exams have to be a 5 or higher to be able to average the two for the final exam mark. Should students fail either of these two exams, the final exam mark will be the lowest of the two. If both exams are failed, the final mark will be the average of the two exams.

The additional exam sitting (in July) will consist of two parts, one pertaining to each course module. To pass the course, students must score a 5 or above on both parts. The marks obtained during the first sittings will not be taken into consideration.

The final mark will take into account the acquisition of competencies foreseen for this course, marked with a 0 to 10. This evaluation of competencies worked on throughout the course may be considered in the 0 to 10 mark, and will also be reflected from A to D in an independent indicator. This indicator will be incorporated into all courses and will be used to follow up on each student's progress throughout the programme.

Core bibliography:
First module

- GINER, S. Sociologia, Barcelona, Península, 1996
- GIDDENS, A. Sociología, Madrid, Alianza Editorial, 2004
- ROCHER, G. Introducción a la Sociología General, Barcelona, Herder, 1998

Second module

- BILBENY, N. Filosofía política, Barcelona, UOC Editorial, 2008
- BOLADERAS, M., CAMPILLO, N. Filosofía Social Editorial Síntesis