esade

TEACHING GUIDE - 2024-2025

Companies' Sociopolitical Environment

UGRA_003174

Departments	Department of Society, Politics, and Sustainability
Language	English, Spanish, Catalan
ECTS	3
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Course objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, students should:

- Be familiar with and capable of applying the appropriate methodology to analyze fundamental elements in business, public, and not-for profit organizations' techno-economic, social, political, and cultural settings.

- Understand the impact that organizations have on their environments.

Based on all this, students will assume a global/local perspective of reality to generate a professional and civic commitment to society.

Prior knowledge

Students should be able to apply the knowledge acquired in the Sociology I course and/or comparable courses.

Prerequisites

Students should have completed the Sociology I course and/or comparable courses.

Methodology

Lecture sessions include a part for faculty to present the different concepts and another part for questions, comments, and answers from faculty.
Practical sessions include the following:
Group presentations: Groups present the key ideas from each session's assigned readings and lead a discussion with the entire class based on the questions the presenting group has to prepare beforehand.
- Presentation objective: Present and elaborate on the key points from each session's assigned readings and relate the latter to the discussion questions prepared by the corresponding group.
- Methodology:
A brief presentation with just a few slides
Groups have to demonstrate their understanding and thoughts on the topic in question.
All the group members have to speak.
The group has to raise questions and guide the ensuing dialogue.

Description

Course contribution to the program

This course aims to provide students a global perspective on organizations' social and political environments, thus enabling them to analyze any question, whether professional, economic, or social, and spontaneously frame it in terms of both local and global interrelations.

For this, the course applies a multidisciplinary analytical methodology to examine the globalization phenomenon. The latter should be seen not just as an economic process but, rather, as a vast social transformation in which social, political, and cultural elements always intervene. This transformation process is not predetermined, and, consequently, its outcomes are the result of multiple decisions which imply different ways of understanding the world around us, of addressing that reality, and of people applying their respective values.

This course's perspective is primarily cultural. This focus should, first, help students understand the social impact that decision-making has at both the individual and collective levels, and, second, enable students to develop the criteria to be able to analyze both the political and social consequences that their own decisions have.

As a result, this course raises questions related to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), enabling future business executives to insert themselves in the broader social issues that go hand-in-hand with their professional endeavors.

Brief description

This course aims to provide students with a more in-depth understanding of the sociopolitical environment related to their professional activity, by observing and understanding what this environment comprises in today's global world. This course will achieve this by means of using globalization, the phenomenon responsible for our globalized world, as a conceptual tool. Consequently, the key questions this course will raise are: How can we understand companies' local and global contexts in today's globalized world? And, what are the biggest challenges of our time? Through the latter, students will acquire the ability to understand their immediate and global surroundings and assume an active and responsible role in the world as both professionals and citizens.

Learning outcomes from the program

BBA20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

- Business management skills
  - Familiarity with the economic, legal, and social concepts that define the context in which companies and other organizations operate, their areas of action, and their potential clients.

- Responsible leadership
  - Recognize the impact that business decisions have on the organization itself, on society, and on the environment.
  - Incorporate social justification criteria and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their decision-making, including the gender perspective based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination due to gender.

- Communication skills
  - Effectively communicate ideas and arguments in writing.
  - Effectively communicate ideas and arguments orally.

Activities

In-class discussions and dialogue
The practical component of this course will comprise collective dialogues led by a different group each week.

Written and/or oral exams

There will be both a mid-term and a final exam.

Teamwork
Students will work in teams to prepare the dialogue sessions and lead the corresponding discussions in class.

Tests
Short, multi-choice tests will be given before various sessions to ensure that students have prepared for the sessions in question.

Group presentations
At the start of their assigned sessions, the corresponding group will give a mini-presentation introducing the questions that they want to raise in the ensuing dialogue.

Readings
Students will be required to read and/or prepare other material before each session.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment method	Category	%
Written and/or oral exams	Final exam	Ordinary round	30%
Written and/or oral exams	Mid-term exam	Ordinary round	20%
Tests	Ongoing multiple-choice tests	Ordinary round	20%
Teamwork	Teamwork (leading a dialogue)	Both ordinary round and retake	20%
In-class analysis and discussion of diverse topics	Participation	Both ordinary round and retake	10%
Written and/or oral exams	Final exam	Retake	70%

PROGRAMS

BBA20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBA20 Year 3 (mandatory)

BBE20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBE20 Year 1 (mandatory)

BBE20 Year 3 (mandatory)

DBAI21-Double Degree in Business Administration and in Artificial Intelligence for Business (Undergraduates: Business)
DBAI21 Year 4 (mandatory)

GBD20-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
GBD20 Year 4 (mandatory)