

Sociology

UGRA_009230

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| Departments | Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability |
| Teaching Languages | English, Spanish, Catalan |
| ECTS | 6 |
| Teacher responsible | Arenas Vives Daniel - daniel.arenas@esade.edu Sáez Giol Lluís - lluis.saez@esade.edu |

Course Goals

- Analyze the social world critically.
- Apply the key concepts and theories from sociology to different social situations, such as stratification, socialization, social role, discrimination, etc.;
- Be able to explain the major ideologies that have characterized modernity such as liberalism and socialism.
- Evaluate the conditioning forces that society imposes on individuals and organizations and show how personal problems are often connected to social issues.
- Be able to explain some fundamental techno-economic, socio-political, and cultural factors of society and of organizations.
- Develop a sensibility and sense of responsibility about the role of individuals and organizations in improving social conditions.

Previous knowledge

None

Prerequisites

None

Description

Course contribution to program

Students in this course will be better equipped to analyze and evaluate social complexity. In addition, the course aims to help future professionals in management and business administration to develop critical skills and become aware of their transformative capacity.

The course also aims to develop oral and written communicative skills, as well as reading skills and teamwork.

Short description

How is today's society different from that of previous generations? To what extent are some of the things that seem natural to us social constructions? What makes societies change? In which way do individuals and organizations maneuver within social constraints? These are the type of questions that sociology deals with. These questions are also relevant for management students insofar as companies operate in increasingly interrelated and complex societies that are undergoing rapid transformations.

In this course, we aim to show the methods and the basic frameworks and concepts to analyze social

reality, to promote a critical spirit, and to place social and political events within a historical global vision. Some of the key concepts that will be explained and discussed during the course are those of social "role", identity, socialization, social class, stratification and inequality, culture and subculture, social change, tradition, modernity, and postmodernity. In the second part of the course, we will discuss some of the main political and social projects that have shaped modern society: liberalism, socialism, and the Welfare State, as well as North-South relations.

Activities

In-class discussions and debates

Written and/or oral exams

Quizzes/tests

Group presentations

Readings

Presentations

Content

| # | Topic |
|----|--|
| 1 | Introduction to Sociology: - Origin and meaning of sociology. - Main sociological perspectives: functionalism, conflict paradigm, social action paradigm |
| 2 | Culture and Society: - Main components of culture: material culture, symbols, language, norms, values and beliefs - Sapir-Whorf hypothesis: the relationship between language and reality - Cultural diversity: high and popular culture, subcultures and countercultures - Cultural change and cultural lag - Ethnocentricity and cultural relativism |
| 3 | Socialization: - Processes of socialization: primary, secondary - Agents of socialization - Social roles, Identity, and Cognitive Dissonance - Social Institutions - Deviance and Social Control |
| 4 | Social Stratification - Social stratification: closed and open systems. Social mobility - Systems of stratification: slavery, estate, caste and class - Role of ideology in stratification - Meritocracy - Functionalist and Marxist views on stratification - Weber: Class, Status, and Power - Symbols of Status |
| 5 | Stratification by ethnicity, race, and gender - Ethnicity - Racism, prejudice, discrimination. - Theories about racism - Gender, sexual identity, and discrimination - Inequality and gender. Patriarchy, gender stratification and sexism - Distinction between Sex and Gender |
| 6 | Liberalism and Capitalism - Transition from traditional to modern society - The emergence and characteristics of capitalism - Economic basis of Liberalism - Political basis of Liberalism - Cultural basis of Liberalism - Historical evolutions: Classical Liberalism, Democratic Liberalism, Libertarianism, Neo-liberalism |
| 7 | Socialism and other alternatives to capitalism: - Criticism of capitalism: the concern with poverty, egalitarianism, alienated labor, and the idea of freedom as fulfillment - Economic basis of Socialism - Political basis of Socialism - Cultural basis of Socialism - Historical evolutions: "Utopian Socialism", "Real Socialism", Communism, Anarchism, Social Democracy - The cooperative movement and the role of trade unions |
| 8 | The Welfare State, its challenges, and other models - The origins of the Welfare State - The economics basis of the Welfare State - The political basis of the Welfare State - The cultural basis of the Welfare State - Models of the Welfare State - Historical development: expansion and crisis - Other models: China |
| 9 | The Global South and Sustainable Development: - Causes of underdevelopment - Colonization and de-colonization - The trap of primary specialization - Alternatives for development today - The notion of Sustainable Development |
| 10 | Post-modernity and the Digital Age - From traditional society to modernity - Achievements of modernity - The crisis of modernity - Characteristics of post-modern society - Attitudes towards post-modernity: neo-traditionalism, neo-modernism, |

| # | Topic |
|----|-----------------|
| 10 | post-modernism. |

Assessment

| Tool | Assessment tool | Category | Weight % |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|----------|
| Written and/or oral exams | Midterm exam | Ordinary round | 20.00% |
| Quizzes/tests | | Ordinary round | 17.00% |
| Group project | Oral presentation in teams: | Ordinary round | 15.00% |
| Participation in program activities | Participation | Ordinary round | 15.00% |
| Written and/or oral exams | Final exam | Ordinary round | 33.00% |
| Written and/or oral exams | Activities (midterm, quizzes, presentation) done during course (weight for retake) | Retake | 50.00% |
| Written and/or oral exams | Final retake exam | Retake | 50.00% |

PROGRAMS

BBA20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBA20 Year 1 (Basic)

BBA23-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBA23 Year 1 (Basic)

DBAI23-Double Degree in Business Administration and Artificial Intelligence for Business (Undergraduates: Business)
DBAI23 Year 1 (Basic)

GBD20-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
GBD20 Year 1 (Basic)

GBD23-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
GBD23 Year 1 (Basic)