

Social Thinking

UGRA_011254

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English and Spanish
ECTS	4
Teacher responsible	Macipe Catalán Ferran - ferran.macipe@esade.edu Sáez Giol Lluís - lluis.saez@esade.edu

Course Goals

- A. Understand the anthropological, sociological and psychological foundations of human existence.
- B. Understand the impact that social and cultural conditioning factors have on people.
- C. Understand the evolution of Western society within the global context and today's challenges and future trends.
- D. Understand and know how to critically analyse reality-construction processes.
- E. For students to exercise their own reflection and critical analysis skills.
- F. Use intellectual tools to interrelate, compare and analyse different theories, world views, legitimation processes, etc.
- G. Further explore the values inherent to human social development in order to be sensitive to, responsible towards and open-minded with respect to the human phenomenon, as well as adopt a certain degree of civic and social commitment.

Previous knowledge

None.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended courses

Any other social science course concerning human behavior and its explanations and implications.

Teaching methodology

Lecturing will be combined with class discussions and individual and small group reflections. Working in groups, participants will prepare selected topics. The materials provided by the professor will be complemented with additional external sources obtained by the course participants through their own research of the topic.

The tenets of critical thinking (questioning, considering, re-imagining, identifying biases, etc.) are an essential part of the approach and will make themselves present in all activities and teaching tools.

Description

Course contribution to program

This subject aims to provide students with a framework with which to interpret social reality based on various interpretation tools. These are primarily sociological in nature, though some require complementary incursions in the anthropological and social-psychological realms. The ultimate goal is to complement students' education and enrich their interpretation, comprehension and analysis of social contexts and the corresponding tension and/or alignment between individuals and groups.

Short description

How is today's society different from that of previous generations? To what extent do things that seem natural to us are social constructions? What makes societies change? To what extent do individuals and organizations have the ability to maneuver within social constraints? These are the type of questions that this course deals with. They are relevant for students who want to pursue different careers in companies, governments, international organisms, and civil society organizations, as all these organizations operate in increasingly inter-related and complex societies, undergoing transformation. In this course, we aim to show the methods and the basic tools of analysis of social reality, promote a critical spirit, and place social and political events within a historical global vision. Some of the key concepts coming from the discipline of sociology that will be clarified and debated during the course are those of social "role", socialization, social class, stratification and inequality, culture and subculture, and social change.

In addition to applying these concepts and tools to understand social complexity, the course aims to help future professionals to critically assume the social conditions that influence their own lives and that of their organizations, and become aware of their transformative capacity.

Program Learning Objectives

GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order

- Responsible Leadership
 - Recognize the social impact of international organizations and governments decisions.
- Self-Development
 - Develop the capacity for critical analysis coherent with ethical and deontological conceptions.
- Economic Analysis
 - Describe social phenomena in the context of the theoretical foundations of sociology.

Bibliography

Peter Berger, Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective (Book)
 Macionis, J.J. & Plummer, K., Sociology. A Global Introduction (Book)

Activities

In-class discussions and debates

Written and/or oral exams

Teamwork

Readings

Content

#	Topic
1	Social Sciences and the study of reality. -The anthropological focus. -The sociological focus. -The psychological focus. - Interpretative paradigms.
2	Society and culture. -Cultural anthropology. -Cultures, subcultures and countercultures. -Cultural transformation processes. -Culture shock: ethnocentrism and interculturalism. -Multiculturalism and integration models.
3	Socialisation processes and the construction of personal identities -Socialisation processes. -Construction of roles and

#	Topic
3	identities. -Social deviation and control. -Institutions and legitimation processes.
4	Social stratification -Economic stratification systems. -Status as the means behind stratification. -Gender as the means behind stratification. -Ethnicity as the means behind stratification.
5	Tradition, modernity and postmodernity - From traditional society to modernity - Achievements of modernity - The crisis of modernity - Characteristics of post-modern society
6	Sociology of digital media, news and technology . Hyperreality and information overload . News as consumption . The attention economy and mass distraction
7	Work: the achievement society -From a "should" to a "can" culture -Paradoxical freedom for productivity gains -Depression and burnout -Hyperactivity and low tolerance to boredom
8	Consumerism and leisure -A society of consumers -The consumerist mindset -"The promoters of commodities and the commodities they promote" -Identity building and rebuilding
9	Love and emotional bonds -Dissolving social bonds -Non-choice and unloving -Contemporary loneliness
10	Social movements and social change . Collective behavior, crowds, masses, and social movements . Types of social movements . Causes and consequences of social movements . Social movements and social change

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Written and/or oral exams		Ordinary round	65.00%
Attendance and punctuality	A minimum of 80% attendance is required to pass the course	Ordinary round	0.00%
Group project		Ordinary round	15.00%
In-class analysis and discussion of issues		Ordinary round	20.00%

PROGRAMS

113-Law Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
113 Year 1 (Optative)

GDL20-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GDL20 Year 2 (Basic)

GDL23-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GDL23 Year 2 (Basic)

GEL19-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GEL19 Year 2 (Basic)

GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GEL23 Year 1 (Mandatory)