

Socio-Political Environment of Businesses

UGRA_003174

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English, Spanish, Catalan
ECTS	3
Teacher responsible	Lluís Sáez Giol - lluis.saez@esade.edu Constantin Starhemberg - constantin.starhemberg@esade.edu

Course Goals

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.

Previous knowledge

Students should be able to apply the knowledge acquired in the Sociology I and in other courses.

Recomended courses

Sociology I is in many ways the basis for Socio-political environment of business.

Teaching methodology

1. Lecture sessions include a part for faculty to present the different concepts and another part for questions, comments, and answers from faculty.
2. 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 on this week's focus theme. The dialogue is 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 focus theme and relate the latter to the discussion questions prepared by the corresponding group.

- Methodology: A brief presentation with just a few slides, they 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 program

This course aims to provide students with 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 contemporary phenomena and challenges. The focus of this course should, first, help students understand the social impact that decision-making has at both the individual and collective level, 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.

Short 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 conceptual tools such as globalization, the sociological triangle (techno-economic, socio-political and cultural dimension of any society or of the world society), post-globalization and others. With the help of these tools, the course will also analyse key sociopolitical challenges of the contemporary world.

Consequently, the key questions this course will raise are: How can we understand companies' local and global contexts in today's 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.

Program Learning Objectives

BBA20-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

- General Management Skills
 - Recognise the economic, legal and social concepts that define the context of companies and other organisations, their scope of action and their potential clients.
- Responsible Leadership
 - Recognise the impact that business decisions have on the organisation itself, society and the environment.

- Apply sustainable and fair management practices that are aligned with the UN SDGs and principles with a gender perspective, respecting the principle of equality and non-discrimination between women and men.

- Communication Skills

- Communicate effectively ideas and arguments orally.
- Communicate ideas and arguments effectively in written form.

Activities

In-class discussions and debates

The practical part of the class will take the form of a joint dialogue led by a different team of students each week.

Written and/or oral exams

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

Teamwork

Teamwork will be required to prepare the dialogue sessions led by the teams.

Quizzes/tests

In various sessions, there will be short quizzes on the class content, as part of the continuous evaluation grade.

Group presentations

Before the dialogue of the group part of the session starts, the respective team will give a short presentation introducing the questions they would like to raise for the subsequent dialogue.

Readings

Before each session, there will be a series of readings and/or other preparation materials.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Written and/or oral exams	Final Exam	Ordinary round	30.00%
Written and/or oral exams	Mid-term Exam	Ordinary round	20.00%
Quizzes/tests	continuous short tests	Ordinary round	20.00%
Group project	Team Work (dialogue facilitation)	Retake and ordinary round	20.00%
In-class analysis and discussion of issues	Participation	Retake and ordinary round	10.00%
Written and/or oral exams	Final Exam (with various parts)	Retake	70.00%

PROGRAMS

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

BBA23-Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
BBA23 Year 3 (Mandatory)

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

DBAI21 Year 4 (Mandatory)

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

DBAI23 Year 4 (Mandatory)

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