# Comparative Sociology

**Academic Year: ( 2020 / 2021 )** **Review date: 14-07-2020**

**Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department**

**Coordinating teacher: FERNANDEZ GONZALEZ, JUAN JESUS**

**Type: Basic Core ECTS Credits : 6.0**

**Year : 1 Semester : 1**

**Branch of knowledge: Social Sciences and Law**

## REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

Due to the fact that Comparative Sociology is an introductory class, no other class is necessary to enroll in it.

## OBJECTIVES

To acquire knowledge and comprehension to:
-Students will be able to know the main analytical approaches in comparative social science
-Students will be able to know the main objectives of comparative sociology
-Students will be able to know the main dimensions of contemporary societies.
-Students will be able to distinguish between structural, economic, cultural and political approaches.
-Students will be able to identify cross-national differences based on descriptive evidence.
-Students will be able to link theoretical models and socioeconomic and political indicators.

Transferable aims:
- To increase the capacity to deal with abstract concepts.
- To improve the ability to formalize theoretically an economic problem.
- To acquire agility in solving practical problems.
- To foster teamwork ability.
- To be able to perform critical analysis of arguments and theories.
- To improve oral and written communication.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

PART I: CONCEPTUAL INTRODUCTION
Topic 1 - Week 1: What is Sociology?
Wednesday September 6: Lecture: Introduction
Friday September 8: Seminar: What is Sociology?

Compulsory readings:
Giddens, Anthony. 2006. Sociology. Cambridge: Polity, pp. 4-8.
Wright Mills, C. 1959. The Sociological Imagination. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 3-18.
Brym, Robert and John Lie. 2006. Sociology. Belmont: Thomson, pp. 2-3, 5-7.

Topic 2 - Week 2: What is Comparative Sociology?
Wednesday September 13: Lecture: What is Comparative Sociology?
Friday September 15: Seminar: Debate on the ¿sociological imagination¿

Compulsory readings:
Teune, Henry. 2014. ¿Comparing Societies around the World¿. Pp. 3-11 in Concise Encyclopedia of Comparative Sociology, edited by Masamichi Sasaki, Jack A. Goldstone, Ekkart Zimmermann and Stephen K. Sanderson. Leiden: Brill.
Ragin, Charles. 1982. ¿Comparative Sociology and the Comparative Methods¿. Pp. 102-121 in Comparative Sociological Research in the 1960s and 1970s, edited by J. Michael Armer and Robert Mortimer Marsh. Leiden: Brill, pp. 102-107.
Prezeworksi, Adam and Hentry Teune. 1970. The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry. Malabar: Krieger Publishing Company, pp. 31-39.

Optional readings:
Dogan, Mattei. ¿Strategies in Comparative Sociology¿. Pp. 13-45 in New Frontiers in Comparative Sociology, edited by Masamichi Sasaki.

Rezaev, Andrey, Valentin S. Starikov and Natalia D. Tregubova. 2015. ¿Comparative Sociology as an Inquiry and as a Teaching Discipline: An Attempt of Comparative Analysis¿, Comparative Sociology, 14, 143-175.

Topic 3 - Week 3: Theoretical Approaches in Sociology and Comparative Sociology
Wednesday September 20: Lecture: Major Theoretical Approaches in Comparative Sociology
Friday September 22: Seminar: Debate on the theoretical approaches of sociology

Compulsory readings:
Jones, Pip. 2003. ¿An Introduction to Sociological Theories,¿ in Introducing Social Theory. London: Polity, pp. 1-22.
Brym, Robert and John Lie. 2006. Sociology. Belmont: Thomson, pp. 13-18.

Optional readings:
Apter, David E. 2005. ¿Comparative Sociology: Some Paradigms and Their Moments.¿ Pp. 103-125 in The SAGE Handbook of Sociology, edited by Craig Calhoun, Chris Rojek, and Bryan S. Turner. London: SAGE.
Collins, Randall. 1985. Three Sociological Traditions. New York: Oxford University Press.
Giddens, Anthony. 2006. Sociology. Cambridge: Polity Press. Chapter 4.

Topic 4 - Week 4: The Practice of Sociology
Wednesday September 27: Lecture: Analytical Strategies and Data in Sociology
Friday September 29: Seminar: Research Design in Sociology

Compulsory readings:
Brym, Robert, John Lie and Steven Rytina. 2010. Sociology: Your Compass for a New World. Nelson. Chapter 2.

Optional readings:
Giddens, Anthony. 2006. Sociology. Cambridge: Polity, Chapter 2.

PART II: DEMOGRAPHY AND MIGRATION
Topic 5 - Week 5: Comparative Demography
Wednesday October 4: Lecture: Comparative Demography
Friday October 6: Seminar: Data Sources for the Essays

Compulsory readings:
Poston, Dudley ant Leon F. Bouvier. 2010. Population and Society: An Introduction to Demography. Cambridge University Press, pp. 265-266, 271-281.
Fahey, Tony. 2011. ¿Population¿. Pp. 418-432 in Handbook of European Societies: Social Transformations in the 21st Century, edited by Stefan Imerfall and Göran Therborn. Springer.

Optional readings:
Kudo, Shogo et al. 2015. ¿Population Aging: An Emerging Research Agenda for Sustainable Development.¿ Social Sciences, 4, 940-966.

Topic 6 - Weeks 6 and 7: International Migration
Wednesday October 11: Lecture: International Migration
Wednesday October 13: Holiday
Wednesday October 18: Mid-term Exam
Friday October 20: Seminar: Figures and Data Analysis

Compulsory readings:
Poston, Dudley and Leon F. Bouvier. 2010. Population and Society: An Introduction to Demography. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 166-177.
Mau, Steffe and Roland Verwiebe. 2010. European Societies: Mapping Structure and Change. Bristol: Policy Press. Pp. 115-131.

Optional readings:
Eich-Krohm. 2013. ¿Twenty-first Century Trends in Highly Skilled Migration¿ in pp. 153-167 in Routledge International Handbook of Migration Studies, edited by Steven Gold and Stephanie J. Iawyn. Routledge.
Lucassen, Jan and Leo Lucassen. 2013. ¿European Migration History¿ in pp. 52-64 in Routledge International Handbook of Migration Studies, edited by Steven Gold and Stephanie J. Iawyn. Routledge.

PART III: CORE SOCIAL DIVIDES
Topic 7 - Week 8: Social Class ¿ Concept and Class Structure

Wednesday October 25: Lecture: Social Class Inequalities
Friday October 27: Seminar: Debate on social class inequalities

Compulsory readings:
Rose, David and Eric Harrison. 2007. ¿The European Socio-Economic Classification: A New Social Class Schema for Comparative European Research¿, European Societies, 9, 459-490.

Topic 8 - Week 9: Race and Ethnicity
Wednesday November 1: Holiday
Friday November 3: Lecture: Race and Ethnicity in US and France

Compulsory readings:
Wacquant, Loic. 2007. Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality. London: Policy. Pp. 229-233, 145-162, 169-185.

Topic 9 - Week 10: Gender Inequalities
Wednesday November 8: Lecture: Gender Inequalities
Friday November 10: Seminar: Debate on gender inequalities; Introduction to academic writing.

Compulsory reading:
Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 2009. The Incomplete Revolution: Adapting to Women¿s New Roles. Polity Press. Chapters 1 and 2.

Optional readings:
Kimmel, Michael. 2001. The Gendered Society. London: Oxford University Press.

PART IV: INTEGRATIVE STRUCTURES, CULTURE AND SYMBOLS
Topic 10 - Week 11: Family Structures
Wednesday November 15: Lecture: Comparative Sociology of the Family
Friday November 17: Seminar: Debate on Family Structures

Compulsory readings:
Saraceno, Chiara. 2008. ¿Patterns of Family Living in the Enlarged EU¿. Pp. 47-73 in Handbook of Quality of Life in the Enlarged European Union, edited by Jens Alber, Tony Fahey and Chiara Saraceno. Routledge.

Optional readings:
Crouch, Colin. 1999. Social Change in Western Europe. Oxford University Press. p. 199-231.
Mau, Steffe and Roland Verwiebe. 2010. European Societies: Mapping Structure and Change. Bristol: Policy Press. Pp. 103-114.

Topic 11 - Week 12: Social Value Change
Wednesday November 22: Lecture: Social Values in Comparative Perspective
Friday November 24: Seminar: Debate n Social Values
Compulsory reading:
Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. 2005. Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 22-25, 37-38, and 115-134.

Optional readings:
Welzel, Christian. 2013. Freedom Rising: Human Empowerment and the Quest for Emancipation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Topic 12 - Week 13: Education
Wednesday November 29: Lecture: Education Expansion in Comparative Perspective Friday December 1: Seminar: Review

Compulsory reading:
Müller, Walter and Irena Kogan. 2010. ¿Education¿. Pp. 246-282 in Handbook of European Societies, edited by Stefan Immerfall and Göran Therborn. Springer

Optional readings:
Mau, Steffe and Roland Verwiebe. 2010. European Societies: Mapping Structure and Change. Bristol: Policy Press. Pp. 173-193.

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Lectures:
In the lectures we will discuss the readings and the critical evidence needed to test the main theories.

Reduced lectures:
Each week we will have presentations, debates based on the readings and discussions of the essays. Students will have to participate actively in class.

## ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The final exam will represent 60% of the grade. The continuous assessment part will represent 40% of the final grade.

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| **% end-of-term-examination:** | 60 |
| **% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):** | 40 |

## BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY


- Alber, Jens, Tony Fahey and Chiara Saraceno. Handbook of Quality of Life in the Enlarged European Union, Routledge, 2008
- Brady, David Poor People in Rich Countries: How Politics Explain Poverty. , Oxford, 2009
- Immerfall, Stefan and Göran Therborn. Handbook of European Societies. , Springer, 2010
- Mau, Steffen and Roland Verwiebe European Societies: Mapping Structure and Change, Policy Press, 2010
- Sümer, Sevil European Gender Regimes and Policies: Comparative Perspective. , Ashgate, 2011