Urban Sociology

Academic Year: (2022 / 2023) **Review date: 11-02-2023**

Department assigned to the subject: Social Analysis Department

Coordinating teacher: GOMEZ GARCIA, MARIA VICTORIA PALOMA

Type: Electives ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 5 Semester :

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

Introduction to Sociology
Social research methods

OBJECTIVES

General:

- Ability for analysis and synthesis
- Critical thinking
- Capacity to recognize the complexity of social phenomena
- Ability to both contextualise social phenomena and identify the key players of any situation
- Knowledge of social research methods

Specific:

- Knowledge of the historical development of European urban areas
- Ability to analyse urban socio-spatial processes
- Capacity to link urban phenomena with broader social processes
- Ability to identify urban dynamics of conflict
- Capacity for the implementation of the performance of different phases of a social research project located in an urban setting
- Ability to contribute to the design of public policies to address specific problems of urban environments

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

URBAN SOCIOLOGY

The unit focuses on the city as a social construction linking its multiple social relations with the spatial structure that supports them, without overlooking a broader view of the processes of urbanization and the consequent questioning of what is specifically urban. From this point of view the unit analyses the city as the spatial framework of urbanization processes but also as a place for people's encounter and the locus where economic and power games take place. The course looks at the theoretical reflection prompted by the urban experience from the origins of Sociology, providing at the same time with the conceptual elements necessary to explain both urban social change and trends of the city in the context of globalization and current political-economic trends.

I. HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN CITY
1. Evolution of the city (I)
2. Evolution of the city (II)

II. THE CITY IN SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
3. The city in classical sociological theory
   Friedrich Engels, Max Weber, George Simmel, The Chicago School
4. Urban theory in recent times
   Henri Lefebvre, Manuel Castells, David Harvey / Saskia Sassen

III. THE URBANIZATION OF THE WORLD
5. Unsustainable growth and inequality in large cities
   Global urban population, megacities, peripheralization, suburban sprawl, spiral of poverty in cities of

developing countries

IV. DYNAMICS AND PROCESSES IN THE URBAN ARENA
6. Morphology of the city
Urban elements: land, housing, public facilities, public space, elements of the urban image
7. Urban dynamics
Diversity (Jane Jacobs), gentrification, neighbourhood effect, ghetto/hyperghetto

V. URBAN POLITICS
8. Instruments of urban policy in Spain
City planning , housing policies, the real estate crisis, the need for regulation. Gender and planning. The city of COVID-19.
9. Commodification of cities
De-regulation, urban competition and their impact on urban policies. The abandonment of city planning

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

The programme will be developed through both theoretical lectures and practical lessons. The latter are thought to complement each of the subjects of the programme. They reinforce theory learning by using, analysing and criticising concepts but also comparing and relating them to the most relevant debates, discussions and lines of argumentation. The practical lessons will have different content and scope: methodological, workgroup, presentations, individual exercises based on texts or audiovisual material, etc.

Students will form groups to carry out a research piece of work to be collectively presented in the last sessions of the course.

Students will do an assessment test in the middle of the term.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The final mark will be the result of the following:

- Final exam: 3 (maximum score) - Compulsory - It must be passed
- Practical exercises submission and presentations: 3 (maximum score)
- Assessment test: 1 (maximum score)
- Workgroup research and presentation: 3 (maximum score)

Concerning the extraordinary call, the grade of the continuous assessment process is kept if the student had followed it, otherwise, he/she is entitled to an exam with a value of 100% of the grade.

% end-of-term-examination:	30
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	70

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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