

Social Theory

Academic Year: (2023 / 2024)

Review date: 20-04-2023

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: DIEZ MEDRANO, JUAN

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 3 Semester : 1

OBJECTIVES

Ability to solve problems, through both analysis and synthesis. Development of team work skills and of the skills for both oral and written expression. Improvement of critical reasoning skills and development of a commitment to upholding ethical standards. Development of the motivation to accomplish high quality work.

This course provides students with tools to learn classic sociological theory, including its major schools. It also stresses the teaching of major concepts in classical approaches to sociology, when they refer to human society. It also develops the necessary skills to identify problems and different sociological perspectives.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

This module covers the work of the founding "fathers" of sociological theory. It discusses the most influential sociologists in the mid-19th-early 20th century period, in a way that emphasizes those conceptual and analytical contributions that remain relevant today. To demonstrate this relevance, the module refers to contemporary texts that update the work of the founders of sociology as a discipline. The module addresses the following topics:

1-Tocqueville

- a. The comparative method
- b. Theory of revolution

2-Marx

- a. Vision of history
- b. The historical method
- c. Alienation

3-Weber

- a. Vision of history
- b. The sociology of action
- c. Stratification

4-Durkheim

- a. Vision of history
- b. The quantitative method
- c. Sociology of religion and of knowledge

5-Simmel

- a. Types of Sociology
- b. Culture and modernity

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

It will be developed through:

Theoretical classes (2 credits ECTS) for the acquisition of skills related to learning social theory and its main schools. Practical classes (2 credits ECTS) that include practical tasks and individual activities: searching for references at the library, oral presentations, and other practices; All these tasks are oriented to the acquisition of skills directly related to the module that is taught, in particular, the capacity to identify problems and sociological perspectives, as well as the ability to utilize conceptual tools from classical theorists.

Individual tasks by the student (2 credits ECTS) that include analyzing the subject and several other tasks.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Midterm exam: 25% of the final grade. Students who do not pass this exam should attend office hours to design a plan to improve results.

Oral presentation: 20%

Attendance: 10%

Final exam: 45%

For those who take the second exam call (Convocatoria Extraordinaria) the university norms will be used:

a. Students who followed continuous evaluation, the grade for this call will have the same weight as under continuous evaluation.

b. Students who did not follow continuous evaluation: the grade for this call will have a 100% weight in the final grade. The instructor can allow the student to retrospectively fulfill the continuous evaluation criteria so that the second call has the same weight as the final exam under continuous evaluation.

c. Students who followed continuous evaluation can be graded according to this second call at 100% if the second grade is preferred to the one corresponding to continuous evaluation.

% end-of-term-examination:	45
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):	55

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Durkheim, Emil The Division of Labor in Society, Free Press, 2014
- Durkheim, Emil The Elementary Forms of Religious Life, Free Press, 1995
- Durkheim, Emil Suicide, Free Press, 1997
- Marx, Karl The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844, Intl Pub, 1980
- Marx, Karl 18 Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte, Intl Pub, 1984
- Simmel, Georg On individuality and social forms, University of Chicago Press, 1972
- Tocqueville The old regime and the french revolution, Anchor, 1983
- Tucker, Robert (Ed.) The Marx-Engels Reader, Norton, 1978
- Weber, Max Economy and Society, University of California Press, 1978
- Weber. Max. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Routledge, 2001