

Academic Year: (2023 / 2024)

Review date: 15-07-2023

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: TORRE FERNANDEZ, MARGARITA

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 3.0

Year : 1 Semester : 1

OBJECTIVES

- Knowledge of the main theories of social behavior.
- Ability to formulate explanations of behavior based on the underlying cognitive mechanisms
- Ability to evaluate compatibilities and incompatibilities between various mechanistic explanations of behavior
- Ability to hypothesize about social behaviors under various social conditions.
- Ability to construct theoretical models that relate micro-level behaviors to macro-level outcomes.
- Ability to generalize specific behaviors to explain social action.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

1. Sociological explanation and social mechanisms.
 - Intentional explanation and its problems.
 - Interpretation vs explanation.
 - Classical models: behaviorism, culturalism, role theory, structuralism, interactionism, habitus theory.
1. Rational choice theory and rationality of behaviour.
 - Strategic interaction and game theory.
 - Collective action and social cooperation.
 - Social dilemmas and their solutions.
3. DBO theory.
 - Composition effects and unintended social outcomes.
 - The "Coleman's boat": methodological individualism and the micro-macro problem.
 - The debate on "analytical sociology".
4. Behavioural social science.
 - The "behavioural enrichment" of rational choice.
 - Limited rationality, cognitive biases, and social heuristics.
 - Pro-social motivations, reciprocity, and altruism.
1. Social influence, contagion, imitation, and diffusion.
 - Social trust.
 - Signalling theory and apparently irrational behaviour.
6. Social norms and conventions.
 - Suboptimal norms and pluralistic ignorance.
 - Falsification of preferences.
 - Power, status and status hierarchies.
 - Inequality.
7. Biology vs. socialization and culture as explanatory factors.
 - Evolutionary social science and cultural theory.
 - Biological basis of social behaviour.

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LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Training Activities:

- Theoretical classes
- Group work
- Individual student work

Teaching Methods:

- Presentations in the professor's lecture room with computer and audiovisual support, in which the main concepts of the subject are developed and a bibliography is provided to complement the students' learning.
- Critical reading of texts recommended by the subject professor: Press articles, reports, manuals and/or academic articles, either for later discussion in class, or to expand and consolidate knowledge of the subject.
- Presentation and discussion in class, under the moderation of the professor, of topics related to the content of the subject, as well as practical

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

% end-of-term-examination:	0
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):	100
- Participation in the class (25%)	
- Individual or group work done during the course (75%)	

In the extraordinary call, the evaluation system will be as follows:

- 1) Exam: 100%

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bearman, P. & Hedström, P. (eds.) The Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology, Oxford University Press., 2009
- Coleman, J. Foundations of Social Theory, Cambridge (Mass.), Belknap Press, 1990
- Elster, J. Explaining Social Behavior, New York, Cambridge University Press, 2007
- Hedström, P. Dissecting the Social, Oxford University Press, 2005
- Noguera, J.A. (ed.) Analytical Sociological Theory., Revista de Sociologia, 80, 2006