

Academic Year: ( 2024 / 2025 )

Review date: 30-04-2024

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

<b>% end-of-term-examination:</b>	0
<b>% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):</b>	100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation in the class (25%)</li> <li>- Individual or group work done during the course (75%)</li> </ul>	

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