

SYLLABUS

TITLE: Contemporary Social Analysis
CODE: CSO 104
PREREQUISITE: N/A
CREDITS: 3 credits | 45 contact hours | 1 term

DESCRIPTION

Critical discussion of social sciences' main debates. This course will analyze the great transformations of the contemporary world in the social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental aspects. Also, it will study the dynamic role that the subject plays in these scenarios and in processes of change. This course will provide students with the necessary tools to deepen their social analysis through dialogue and discussion of divergent positions.

JUSTIFICATION

It is important that students develop the theoretical tools that allow them to understand the complexity of the contemporary world. This course trains students to know and face the changes produced by social transformations.

COMPETENCIES

The course develops the following competencies in students:

- **Critical questioning**
- **Communication**
- **Research and exploration**
- **Ethical sense and social justice**

OBJECTIVES

After completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the origin and composition of the social sciences and the reason for their importance as disciplines of study.
2. Know the different concepts of science and their impact on scientific analysis.

3. Know the categories of fundamental analyses in the social sciences.
4. Know some of the main debates of the contemporary social sciences in relation to culture, society, politics, and economics.
5. Transfer the acquired knowledge to the analysis of Puerto Rican society.
6. Develop pan analytical and critical attitude towards the present historical moment.
7. Understand the importance of the social sciences for a better grasp of their discipline or profession.
8. Integrate theory and practice through their participation in concrete activities and experiences relevant to the discipline.

CONTENTS

- I. Social Sciences and the Contemporary World
 - A. Nature and Scope of the Social Sciences
 - B. Science and Ideology
 - C. Historical Background
 - D. Relationship of the Social Sciences with Other Disciplines
 - E. Controversy between the Natural Sciences and the Social Sciences
 - F. Relevance of the Social Sciences Today
 - G. Social Sciences in Puerto Rico
- II. Science and Knowledge Transformations
 - A. Science and Knowledge Production
 - B. Science as a Discursive System
 1. The Scientific Method
 2. Scientific Knowledge as a Historical Construction
 3. Different Positions on the Progress of Science
 - C. Positivism as the Dominant Scientific Paradigm in Modernity
 - D. The Critique of the Positivist Paradigm
 - E. Popular Knowledge as Another Source of Knowledge Production
 - F. Androcentric Biases in Scientific Theory and Methodology
- III. Culture, Identity, and Society
 - A. The Notion of Culture
 1. Classic and Critical Theoretical Perspectives Used in the Social Sciences to Approach the Study and Analysis of the Notion of Culture
 2. Culture and its Relationship with Ideology and Discourse
 - B. Culture and Social Organization

1. Notions of Society and the Social
2. Relationships between Culture and Society
3. Notions of Nation, State, and National Identity
- C. Culture and the Configuration of Subjectivity
 1. Culture as a Discursive and Ideological System
 2. Socialization and the Configuration of Behavior Patterns
 3. Prompts to Problematize Identities
 - a. Race
 - b. Gender
 - c. Class
 - d. Ethnicity
 - e. Sexual Identity
 4. The Social/Cultural construction of Gender, Body, and Sexuality
 5. Cultural Impact on Subjectivity
- IV. Politics, Economy, Development, and Contemporary Society
 - A. Economic Systems and Modes of Production throughout History
 - B. Feudal, Industrial, And Post-Industrial Societies
 - C. Productivist Work Ethic/Hedonistic Consumption Ethic
 - D. Welfare State
 - E. The Crisis Of The Welfare State And A Return To Liberal Capitalism (Neoliberalism)
 - F. Population And Migratory Movements
 - G. Implications Of Globalization
 1. Social
 2. Political
 3. Economic
 4. Cultural
 - H. Impact Of Globalization On Human Rights

METHODOLOGY

The following strategies from the active learning methodology are recommended:

- Analysis and discussion of readings
- Discussion or forums
- Analysis of videos or web links

EVALUATION

Partial assessments	40%
Participation	15%

Compositions	15%
Project or exam	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

The institutional assessment rubric is applied to the course's core activity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bauman, Z. (2000). *Trabajo, consumismo y nuevos pobres*. Editorial Gedisa.
- Bauman, Z. (2007). *Society of consumers: Consuming life*. Polity Press.
- Benson, J. (1996). Posfordismo Puerto Rico –USA. *Bordes*, (3), 29-39.
- Bianchi, S. (2005). *Historia Social del mundo occidental: Del feudalismo a la sociedad contemporánea*. Universidad Nacional de Quilmas.
- Billig, M. (1998). El nacionalismo banal y la reproducción de la identidad. *Revista Mexicana de Sociología - Instituto de Investigaciones sociales*, (1).
- Bodemer, K. (1998, July-August). La globalización: Un concepto y sus problemas. *Nueva Sociedad*, (156), 54-61.
- Braunstein, N. (1994). *Psicología, ideología y ciencia*. Siglo XXI.
- Butler, J. (2006). *Deshacer el género*. Paidós
- Castles, S. (1997, September-October). La era migratoria: Cultura incertidumbre y racismo. *Nueva Sociedad*, (127), 48-59.
- Chalmers, A. (1999). *¿Qué es esa cosa llamada ciencia?* Siglo XXI.
- Chen, G. (2009). On identity: An alternative view. *China Media Research*, 5, 109.
- Cohen, A. P. (1993). Culture as identity: An anthropologist's view. *New Literary History*, 24, 195+.
- Díaz, E. (1996). *La ciencia y el imaginario social*. Editorial Biblos.
- Díaz, E. (1997). In, *Metodología de las ciencias sociales*. Editorial Biblos.

- Figuerola H. & López M. (1993, March-June). El sujeto descentrado y algunas de sus implicaciones para las ciencias sociales o ¿dónde vives tú finalmente? *Revista Cayey*, XXV (73), 13-17.
- Freud, S. (1983). El malestar en la cultura. In *Ensayos técnicos y sociales*. Editorial Edil.
- García Canclini, E. (1993, September-October). La cultura visual en la época del posnacionalismo. Qué nos va a contar la identidad. *Nueva Sociedad*, (127), 23-31.
- Geertz, C. (1973). *La interpretación de las culturas*. Gedisa Editorial.
- González, J. L. (1980). *El país de cuatro pisos y otros ensayos*. Ediciones Huracán.
- Grey, J. (1999). Las desilusiones del capitalismo globalizado: falso amanecer. *Nexos-sociedad, ciencia y literatura*, (260), 35-51.
- Harvey, D. (1997). The Political- Economic Transformation of Late Twentieth-Century Capitalism. In, *The Condition of Postmodernity* (p.121-172). Blackwell Publishers, Inc.
- Heikel, M. V. (1995, December). Género y población: Un desafío más para la equidad. *Pensamiento Iberoamericano*, (28), 139- 176.
- Held, D.; McGrew A. (2000). *The global transformation reader: An introduction to the globalization debate*. Polity Press
- Hernández, L. (1995, January-June). Yola y al margen: Reflexión teórica y metodológica en torno al género y a la migración. *Caribbean Studies*, (26), [Special edition], 319-328.

- Hodos, J. (2007). Globalization and the concept of the second city. *City & Community*, 6(4), 315-333. doi:10.1111/j.1540-6040.2007.00230.x
- Ianni, O. (2002). Las economías-mundo. In, *Teorías de la globalización*. Siglo XXI.
- Jameson, F. (1990). La lógica cultural del capitalismo tardío. In F. Jameson, *Teoría de la postmodernidad*. Editorial Trotta.
- Klein, N. (2010). *La doctrina del Shock: El auge del capitalismo del desastre*. Editorial Paidós.
- Lamas, M. (1987). Para una definición de la cuestión de género. Extracto de Entrevista a Marta Lamas por Victor Jacobo. In *Revista Casa del Tiempo*. División Cultural UNAM.
- López, M. (1994). Feminismo, dependencia y Estado Benefactor: Relaciones de desasosiego en la sociedad post-trabajo. In H. Figueroa, M. López & M. Román (Eds.), *Más allá de la bella (in)diferencia: Revisión postfeminista y otras escrituras posibles* (pp. 124-139). San Juan: Publicaciones Puertorriqueñas.
- Margulis, M. (1997, November-December). Cultura y discriminación social en la época de la Globalización. *Nueva Sociedad*, (152), 37-56
- Margulis, M. (2009). La noción de cultura. In *Sociología de la cultura*. Editorial Biblos.
- Martín-Baró I. (1999). La construcción social de la realidad. In *Sistema, grupo y poder: Psicología Social desde Centroamérica* (II). (pp. 48-63 y 75- 84). UCA Editores.
- Martín-Baró I. (2001). Los procesos de socialización. In, *Acción e Ideología: Psicología Social desde Centroamérica* (p 113-143 & 164-180). UCA Editores.
- Márquez, J.V. (1982). *No es natural*. Editorial Anagrama.

- Munck, R. (1999), Trabajo y globalización: Resultados y perspectivas. *Nueva Sociedad*, (158), 54-71.
- Naief, Y. (1998, December). El cuerpo en la sociedad pancapitalista: Entre la perfección del Cyborg y la eugenesia. *Revista Universidad de México*, (575), 28-34.
- Ortíz, L. (1999). Transformaciones sociales y los márgenes. In, *Al filo de la navaja: Los márgenes en Puerto Rico* (p. 58- 75). Centro de Investigaciones Sociales, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras.
- Pardo, R.H. (1997). La problemática del método en ciencias naturales y sociales. In, *Metodología de las Ciencias Sociales* (p. 67-97). Editorial Biblos.
- Pearce, D. (1997, July-December). Población, pobreza y medio ambiente. *Pensamiento Iberoamericano*, 223-258.
- Rodríguez Ramírez, H. & Toro-Alfonso, J. (Eds.). (2009). Las emociones y masculinidades como fenómenos culturales. In, *Lo masculino en evidencia: investigaciones sobre la masculinidad* (p. 139-149). Publicaciones Puertorriqueñas.
- Toro-Alfonso, J. (2007). Juntos pero no revueltos: cuerpo y género. *Revista Puertorriqueña, de Psicología*, (18).
- Torres Rivera, L. (Ed.). (2004). *Sociedad y cultura contemporánea*. International Thomson Editores.
- Torres, M. (1999). Empobrecimiento de la mujer en Puerto Rico. *Pensamiento Crítico*, 9-13.

Santana Rabel, L. (1987, December). La investigación en las ciencias sociales: Los nexos entre la investigación y la realidad. *Revista de Administración Pública*, 20 (1), 1-10.

Sabsay, L. (2002). Representaciones culturales de la diferencia sexual: figuraciones contemporáneas. In, *Identidades, sujetos y subjetividades* (p. 155-170). Prometeo.

Wallerstein, I. (2001). *Abrir las Ciencias Sociales*. Siglo XXI Editores.

Zhang, P. (2011). Parade, celebration and representation of identity. *China Media Research*, 7(26).

For more information resources related to the course's topics, access the library's webpage <http://biblioteca.sagrado.edu/>

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

For detailed information on the process and required documentation you should visit the corresponding office. To ensure equal conditions, in compliance with the ADA Act (1990) and the Rehabilitation Act (1973), as amended, any student in need of reasonable accommodation or special assistance must complete the process established by the Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This policy applies to all students enrolled at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón to take courses with or without academic credit. A lack of academic integrity is any act or omission that does not demonstrate the honesty, transparency, and responsibility that should characterize all academic activity. Any student who fails to comply with the Honesty, Fraud, and Plagiarism Policy is exposed to the following sanctions: receive a grade of zero in the evaluation and/or repetition of the assignment in the seminar, a grade of F (*) in the seminar, suspension, or expulsion as established in the Academic Integrity Policy effective in November 2022.

All rights reserved | Sagrado | January 2021 | November, 2022