

COMPARATIVE SOCIOLOGY

Syllabus

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

First academic year, Fall semester

Academic year 2014-2015

Professor: Juan J. Fernández
Coordinator: Juan J. Fernández
Department of Social Sciences
Compulsory class

ECTS Credits: 6

SKILLS TO BE LEARNED IN THIS COURSE

General skills

- The capacity to understand and utilize abstract concepts and social theories
- The capacity to summarize and formulate theoretical and social problems
- Initial familiarity with empirical research
- Teamwork capacities
- The capacity to conduct a critical analysis of arguments and theories
- An improved oral and written communication

Specific skills

- Initial familiarity with central methods and approaches in comparative social sciences
- The ability to identify a sociological theory and a sociological approach
- The capacity to identify the main dimensions of contemporary societies
- The capacity to distinguish structural, economic, cultural and political approaches in comparative sociology.
- The capacity identify cross-national differences based on descriptive evidence.
- The capacity to link theoretical approaches to socioeconomic and political indicators.

BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE CLASS AND OFFICE HOURS

- Main lectures. A lecture given by Professor Fernández that will explain the main theoretical approaches and empirical findings regarding each particular topic.
- Discussion section. Exercises about the topic of each week, which will be analyzed by the students and Professor Fernández.
- Office hours will be held in Professor Fernández' office (18.2.C.07) on Tuesdays between 10:30 and 12:30. If the student has another commitment at that time, it is possible to schedule a meeting at some other time.

BASIC BEHAVIOURAL RULES

1. Active and non-disruptive participation. Class assistance is recommended but it is not compulsory and not necessary to pass this course. All class participants have to behave with civility with their fellow students and the main instructors. No parallel conversations should take place. Moreover, the ideas of fellow students and the main instructor have to be listened carefully and without interruptions.
2. Mobile phones, tables and laptops. The use of technological devices is a common distraction in class both for those who use them and those around them. Therefore, expect for students with disabilities, it is completely banned to use mobile phones, tables or laptops in class.
3. Plagiarism. Plagiarism is ethically wrong and intellectual sterile. It doesn't benefit to the student that does it and degrades him/er as a free and autonomous citizen. The main instructor will make sure that all written essays and presentations do not conduct plagiarism. If it is identified, the student will have a 0 in that particular exercise.

COURSE MATERIALS

Professor Fernández selected a broad range of articles and book chapters to be read by throughout the course. From time to time, reading materials will be supplemented with contemporary videos. Students will be asked to read between 40 and 60 pages per week. All the course materials will be available at the Aula Global website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The final grade in this course will be based on two in-class exams, three compulsory essays, one class presentation, as well as on your participation in class.

Two essays: Each student will have to write two short essays regarding three of the 14 topics covered in the course. Students can decide which of the 14 topics will be covered by their essays and they have to be submitted on Friday in the week that that topic was covered in lecture. The maximum length of those essays is 1,500 words. Essays should test a hypothesis, have a strong empirical and comparative focus and draw on the compulsory readings. More information about these essays will be provided in class. Each of these two essays will be 20% of the final grade.

One class presentation: Students will have to do a 10-15 minutes presentation about one of the 14 topics covered in the course. This presentation should be done in pairs. They will take place on Fridays in the Discussion Section. This presentation will represent 10% of the final grade.

Two In-Class Exams: Students will conduct two exams. One exam will be a mid-term and the other exam a final exam. The mid-term will take place at the beginning of Week 8 on October 28 in class. This exam will include questions regarding the first seven topics of the course. The final exam will take place on January 23. This exam will include questions regarding topics 8-14 of the course. It is not necessary to pass these exams to pass the course. Students who fail the mid-term exam will not be asked again in the final exam about the first seven topics of the course. One of the exams will be a multiple-choice and the other one will be an open question exam. Each of the exams will represent 20% of the final grade.

Class Participation: Class participation includes coming to class and participating with questions and comments. The instructor will keep attendance starting in Week 3. This will be monitored through a series of one-paragraph comments about the weekly readings. The instructor will not give credit for missed attendance unless (1) the student has a doctor's notice that prevented him/her from being present, or (2) other valid excuse, for which the student informed the instructor in advance of class. Coming to class and class participation will have the same weight. Together they will represent 10% of the final grade.

COURSE TIMELINE

Week 1

Wednesday September 9: Introduction

Friday September 11: Lecture: What is Sociology and Comparative Sociology?

Week 2

Wednesday September 16: Lecture: Scientific Logic of Inquiry and Causality in Qualitative and Quantitative Research

Friday September 18: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding methodology

Week 3

Wednesday September 23: Lecture Paths to Modernity, Capitalism and Political Regimes

Friday September 25: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding Barrington Moore's book

Week 4

Wednesday September 30: Lecture: Comparative Demography

Friday October 2: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding comparative demography

Week 5

Wednesday October 7: Lecture: Comparative Urbanization

Friday October 9: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding urbanization

Week 6

Wednesday October 14: Lecture: International Migration

Friday October 16: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding international migration

Week 7

Wednesday October 21: Lecture: Comparative Sociology of the Family

Friday October 23: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding family relations

Week 8

Wednesday October 28: Mid-term exam in class

Friday October 30: Lecture: Comparative Gender Inequalities

Week 9

Wednesday November 4: Lecture: Social Values in Comparative Perspective

Friday November 6: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding gender inequalities and social values

Week 10:

Wednesday November 11: Lecture: Religiosity and Secularization

Friday November 13: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding secularization

Week 11

Wednesday November 18: Lecture: Education Expansion in Comparative Perspective

Friday November 20: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding education

Week 12

Wednesday November 25: Lecture: Civil Society in Comparative Perspective

Friday November 27: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding civil society

Week 13

Wednesday December 2: Lecture: Welfare Regimes

Friday December 4: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding welfare regimes

Week 14

Wednesday December 9: Lecture: Labor Market Dualization

Friday December 11: Presentations and submission of the essay regarding labor market dualization

Final exam: Friday January 23, 17:00-20:00

WEEKLY READINGS

To obtain the greatest benefit from the lectures, students are strongly encouraged to complete the readings before Tuesdays' lectures.

Week 1: Introduction

-Wright Mills, C. 1959. *The Sociological Imagination*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Only chapter 1, available at <http://legacy.lclark.edu/~goldman/socimagination.html>.

-Dogan, Mattei. "Strategies in Comparative Sociology". Pp. 13-45 in *New Frontiers in Comparative Sociology*, edited by Masamichi Sasaki.

Week 2: Scientific Logic of Inquiry

-Stuart Mill, John. 2009[1882]. *A System of Logic*. New York: Harper and Brothers. Only chapter VIII in Book III, available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/27942/27942-h/27942-h.html>.

-Mahoney, James. 2004. "Strategies of Causal Assessment in Comparative Historical Analysis." Pp. 337-373 in *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, edited by J. M. a. D. Rueschemeyer. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 3: Modernization

-Moore, Barrington. 1968. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Beacon. Pp. 413-453.

Week 4: Demography

-Fahey, Tony. 2011. "Population" Pp. 413-439 in *Handbook of European Societies: Social Transformations in the 21st Century*, edited by Stefan Imerfall and Göran Therborn. Springer.

-Poston, Dudley and Leon F. Bouvier. 2010. *Population and Society: An Introduction to Demography*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 265-285.

Week 5: Urbanization

-Le Gáles, Patrick and Göran Therborn. 2011. "Cities" Pp. 59-91 in *Handbook of European Societies: Social Transformations in the 21st Century*, edited by Stefan Imerfall and Göran Therborn. Springer.

-Sassen, Saskia. 1994. *Cities in a World Economy*. Pine Forge Press. pp. 77-119.

Week 6: International Migration

-Lucassen, Jan and Leo Lucassen. 2013. Pp. 52-64 in *Routledge International Handbook of Migration Studies*, edited by Steven Gold and Stephanie J. Iawyn. Routledge.

-Eich-Kroh. 2013. Pp. 153-167 in *Routledge International Handbook of Migration Studies*, edited by Steven Gold and Stephanie J. Iawyn. Routledge.

-Poston, Dudley and Leon F. Bouvier. 2010. *Population and Society: An Introduction to Demography*. Cambridge, pp. 196-228.

Week 7: Family Structures

-Saraceno, Chiara. 2008. "Patterns of Family Living in the Enlarged EU". Pp. 47-73 in *Handbook of Quality of Life in the Enlarged European Union*, edited by Jens Alber, Tony Fahey and Chiara Saraceno. Routledge.

-Crouch, Colin. 1999. *Social Change in Western Europe*. Oxford University Press. p. 199-231.

Week 8: Gender Inequalities

-Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 2009. *The Incomplete Revolution: Adapting to Women's New Roles*. Polity Press. Chapters 1 and 2.

Week 9: Social Value Change

-Inglehart, Ronald and Wayne E. Baker. 2000. "Modernization, Cultural Change, and the Persistence of Traditional Values." *American Sociological Review* 65:19-51.

-Inglehart, Ronald and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 22-25 and 94-115.

Week 10: Religiosity and Secularization

-Ruiter, Stijn and Frank Van Tubergen. 2009. "Religious Attendance in Cross-National Perspective: A Multilevel Analysis of 60 Countries." *American Journal of Sociology* 115:863-895.

Week 11: Education Expansion

-Schofer, Evan and John W. Meyer. 2005. "The Worldwide Expansion of Higher Education in the Twentieth Century." *American Sociological Review* 70:898-920.

-Barro, Robert and Jong Wha Lee. 2013. "A New Data Set of Educational Attainment in the World", *Journal of Development Economics*, 104, 184-198.

Week 12: Civil Society and Social Capital

- Schofer, Evan and Fourcade-Gourinchas Marion. 2001. "The Structural Contexts of Civic Engagement: Voluntary Association Membership in Comparative Perspective." *American Sociological Review* 66:806-828.
- Pichler, Florian and Claire Wallace. 2007. "Patterns of Formal and Informal Social Capital in Europe." *European Sociological Review* 23:423-435.

Week 13: Welfare Policy

- Brooks, Clem and Jeff Manza. 2006. "Why Do Welfare States Persist?" *Journal of Politics* 68:816-827.
- Brady, David and Hang Young Lee. 2014. "The Rise and Fall of Government Spending in Affluent Democracies, 1971–2008." *Journal of European Social Policy* 24:56-79.

Week 14: Labor Market Dualization

- Polavieja, Javier. 2006. "The Incidence of Temporary Employment in Advanced Economies: Why is Spain Different!?", *European Sociological Review*, 22, 1, 61-78.
- Häusemann, Silja and Hanna Schwander. 2012. "Varieties of Dualization? Labor Market Segmentation and Insider-Outsider Divides Across Regimes." Pp. 27-54 in *The Age of Dualization: The Changing Face of Inequality in Deindustrializing Societies*, edited by Patrick Emmenegger, Silja Häusemann, Bruno Paier and Martin Seeleib-Kaiser. Oxford: Oxford University Press.