

POWER AND INEQUALITY: FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIAL THEORY

**Grado en Comportamiento y Ciencias Sociales BBSS SEP-
2023 PIFST-BS.1.M.A**

Area Human Resources and Organisational Behaviour

Number of sessions: 30

Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: FIRST

Number of credits: 6.0

Semester: 1^o

Category: COMPULSORY

Language: English

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Ernesto Chévere Hernández (PhD) has a degree in Education in History from the University of Puerto Rico, holds a master's degree in Public and Private International Law from the Complutense University of Madrid, a master's degree in International Relations from CEU San Pablo, a Diploma in Advanced Studies in Applied Economics from CEU San Pablo, and is a doctor in Sociology from the University of Salamanca. He has collaborated in various newspapers, such as Bandera Roja, Indymediapr, El Nuevo Día, and Claridad, as well as in academic journals such as Cruce and peer reviews such as Umbral. He is also the author of the two editions of the book "Historical study of the stages of globalization: perspectives and challenges facing an uncertain future" (2010 and 2015), "NoicazilabolG: dynamics, positions and possibilities around the global-local relationship" (2020), and is the director of the magazine Sin Norte, designed for the migrant community in Spain.

email

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

We live in an increasingly interdependent and globalized world. Situations that occur in different parts of the world have the ability to affect our daily life as never before in history. As time goes by, this reality becomes more and more present in everything that surrounds us. Governments, as well as those who have the political (and economic) capacity to generate public and social policies that are supposed to be designed to protect populations, are well aware of this phenomenon. Power is coming in all fronts in our globalized world and it's starting to surpass the local governments power as the shift towards economic power becomes more relevant as the gaps between power and inequality widen.

The world and societies are undoubtedly changing and so is the shifts in power, decision making and its relation with inequality. Managing theories and explanations of current dynamics will provide students with tools to interpret reality and it's the impact in our lives. More than an interesting subject, it's actually essential to know and understand these processes in order to better understand how our contemporary society is composed and what kind of future is taking shape.

This course is designed within the framework and realm of sociological theory. Understanding sociological theory helps us better understand our present with a clear perspective of the contexts that shape our society. Also, studying theories of human behavior helps us understand who we are, where we come from and why we act the way we do as a society, and can bring forward a better society in the future.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will provide useful resources to students as they face the conflicts of our modern society. Understanding diversity, ethical principles and values, using psychology and sociology, as well as doing research will be key for them to obtain the practical skills and knowledge to better face our changing world. In this course, students will:

- Recognize the general principles and concepts of contemporary moral and ethical reasoning.
- Learn through the use of cases and examples of daily life to provide a useful tool to diagnose and analyze social behavior and dynamics.
- Look at some crucial items from a sociological perspective building on a practical approach to social, political and economic reality.
- Identify structures of power and privilege that characterize contemporary societies.
- Develop social responsibility in discussions and debates on sociological issues addressed in class.
- Understand the concept "Other", as that other person which is not you and doesn't share your realities, and develop a social sensitivity and empathy towards the that Other character.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor's main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as the following:

Learning Activity	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	23.33 %	35.0 hours
Discussions	23.33 %	35.0 hours
Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work	20.0 %	30.0 hours
Group work	13.33 %	20.0 hours
Individual studying	20.0 %	30.0 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150.0 hours

PROGRAM

PROGRAM INFO

The program is tentative and subject to change based on the pace of the class. Still we will make an effort to cover all listed topics as they appear in the following program. All the readings have to be completed by the day each specific session is held.

SESSION 1 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Introduction to the Course

- Objectives, contents, schedule, and evaluation system.
- Main idea of the course.

Readings: Syllabus.

Activities: Discussion of syllabus, course and answer any questions from students.

SESSION 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Philosophy's basic concepts to start up

- Introducing and reviewing basic concepts.
- Concepts: ideology, power, politics, social stratification, inequality.

Readings: None.

Activities: Discussion of basic concepts and their evolution. Students will present the definitions they found on their own for the basic concepts, where we will construct our own definitions collectively based on student findings in their assignment. This will be the basic starting point of the course and will be the concepts we will continue to work with.

Assignment:

Prior to this section, students will be required to find the definitions for the concepts on their own on any resource they prefer.

SESSION 3 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Philosophy's basic concepts follow up

- Debate on the concepts studied in session 2

Readings: None.

Activities: Interactive video discussing basic concepts of session.

Assignment: Video discussion forum. All students must reply to the post before session 4.

SESSION 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

An introduction to Sociology

- The sociological imagination
- Sociology as a discipline

Activities: Lecture. In-Class open debate and discussion.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Wright Mills, C. (1999) The Sociological Imagination. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1 The Promise (pgs. 3-21) (CED)

SESSION 5 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Individuals and Society - I

- Where did it all start?

Activities: The session will be an open debate based on the assigned lecture.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. et al (2020) An introduction to sociology. Ch. 1

SESSION 6 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Individuals and Society - II

- Basic relations between individuals and society (how they perceive themselves and reciprocal views).
- Social Differentiation.

Activities: The session will begin with an open question: Are individuals always an intrinsic part of society? After, the class will become a guided open discussion on individuals and society.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. et al (2020) An introduction to sociology. Ch. 2

SESSION 7 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Individuals and society - III

- Debate on individuals and their roles in society

Readings: None.

Activities: Watch interactive video posted by professor.

Assignment: Video discussion forum. All students must reply to the post before session 8.

SESSION 8 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Socialization

- Basic concepts on socialization
- Agents, roles identity

Activities: Lecture. In-Class open debate and discussion.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. et al (2020) An introduction to sociology. Ch. 4

SESSION 9 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Socialization - II

- Open debate

Readings: None.

Assignment. All students must watch a video made by professor and answer a premise presented. All answers must be handed in discussion board by session 10.

SESSION 10 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Groups, networks and organizations

- The newfound power of technology as an organizational tool

Activities: Lecture. In-Class open debate and discussion.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. et al (2020) An introduction to sociology. Ch. 6

SESSION 11 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Deviance and crime

- The imaginarium of crime: Foucault?
- The bilateral perspective on society and criminals
- Debate on justice

Activities: Lecture. In-Class open debate and discussion.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. et al (2020) An introduction to sociology. Ch. 7

SESSION 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Stratification, class and inequality

- Debates on class struggle
- Is class and race related?

Activities: Lecture. In-Class open debate and discussion.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. et al (2020) An introduction to sociology. Ch. 8

SESSION 13 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Discussions, reviews, and presentation explanation.

- Midterm review and project explanation.

Readings: None

Activities: Midterm review. Explain and divide groups for session 22-23 presentation.

SESSION 14 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Midterm Exam

- Individual exam

SESSION 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Race and Racism - I

- Black empowerment in a white world

Readings: None

Film: Lords of Revolutions

Activities: Watch film provided by professor.

SESSION 16 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Race and Racism - II

- Discussion on the film.
- Discussion on the concepts of race and ethnicity based on previous movie and contrast them with reading

Activities: Lecture. In-Class open debate and discussion.

Readings:

Article: Americanity as a Concept, or the Americas in the Modern World-System (Social Science Journal, Vol. 44, No. 4, 1992, pp. 549–557) (CED)

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. et Al. (2018) Introduction to Sociology. London: W.W. North & Co Ch. 11 Ethnicity and Race.

SESSION 17 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Race and Racism - III

- Discussion on the concepts of race and ethnicity
- In class discussion on premise presented by professor.

Readings:

Article: Quijano, A. / Wallerstein, I. (1992) Americanity as a Concept. (provided by professor in previous session)

SESSION 18 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Managing patriarchy - I

- Gender related debates
- Gender based discrimination

Activities: Lecture. In-Class open debate and discussion.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. et al (2020) Introduction to Sociology. London North W. W. & Co Ch. 10

SESSION 19 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Managing patriarchy - II

- Gender socialization in a "man's world"
- Role of mass media in discrimination legitimacy

Activities: Video forum discussion.

Assignment: All students must watch a short video presented by professor and comment. All comments must be registered by session 20.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. et al (2020) Introduction to Sociology. London North W. W. & Co Ch. 10

SESSION 20 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Project brainstorm, Q and A and guidance

- Preparing group presentation tutorial

Readings: None

Assignment: Group will present their project ideas for discussion in class. Professor will guide a collective debate with ideas to further help on the projects.

SESSION 21 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Global inequality

- The global power structure: How does it perpetuate (or not) inequality?
- Influence of global aspects in local politics and social affairs

Activities: Lecture. In-Class open debate and discussion.

Readings:

Book Chapters: Giddens, A. (2018) Introduction to Sociology. London: North W. W. & North. Ch. 9

SESSION 22 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Group Presentations - I

- Each group will present their project to the rest of the class. (two/three per session)

Readings: None

Activities: Group presentations.

SESSION 23 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Group Presentations - II

- Each group will present their project to the rest of the class. (two/three per session)

Readings: None

Activities: Group presentations.

SESSION 24 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Analyzing group Presentations

- Enter in a sociological debate regarding the presentations.

Readings: None

Activities: Participate in class debate analyzing all group presentations. Present Ideas, suggestions and opinions on every group.

SESSION 25 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Application of learned concepts

- Analyzing a documentary
- What does the future hold?

Readings: None

Film: Still to be determined

Activities: We will watch a documentary (50 minutes, and provided by professor).

SESSION 26 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Guest Key Speaker

- Guest to be confirmed

Readings: None

Activities: Conference.

SESSION 27 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Application of learned concepts

- Discussion of documentary with key questions provided by professor

Readings: None

Activities: Discussion and guided open debate in discussion forum on the documentary seen in session 25.

Assignment: Comment in forum presented by professor. Every student must comment by session 28.

SESSION 28 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Cultural affirmation as a power tool for minorities

- Presentation of music as a tool of empowerment
- How can cultural aspects create a space for personal and collective affirmation

Readings: None

Activities: In this session, the professor will do a presentation about his experience as a migrant minority and how music has helped soften nostalgia, as well as empowered his migrant condition.

SESSION 29 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Final exam discussion and class closure

- Open discussion and final exam review.

Readings: None

Activities: Discussion and debate among students on final exam material. Debates may be student motivated or the professor will guide it with open questions. The discussion will be moderated by professor.

Also, as a class closure, there will be: 1) Discussion on class outcome. 2) Open debate analyzing the class and its progress. What have we learned? Suggestions on how can the class be better.

SESSION 30 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Final exam

- Individual exam

EVALUATION CRITERIA

I encourage and expect students to bring their laptops and chargers to class. That said, if you use the laptop inappropriately during class, I will give you a warning. If you are caught a second time, you will be kicked out of the classroom and marked as absent for that day. I will be very strict about this. The use of mobile phones will not be permitted under any circumstances during this course.

Midterm exam (35%): Session 14. The material for the midterm exam will be the first part of the class which is about basic concepts. The exam format will include multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions.

Group Presentation (25%): Sessions 22 and 23. In several groups (depending on the total number of students in class), students will be able to demonstrate their abilities to work with one another as well as to use the new basic concepts they have encountered during the course. Details of group project will be presented by professor previous to midterm's date.

Final Exam (30%): Session 30. The material for the final exam will be the second part of the class. The exam format will include multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions.

Participation (10%): Assistance, punctuality, performance in class as well as in groups and discussion forums will be taken into consideration.

criteria	percentage	Learning Objectives	Comments
Final Exam	30 %		
Intermediate Tests	35 %		
Group Presentation	25 %		
Class Participation	10 %		

RE-SIT / RE-TAKE POLICY

Each student has four (4) chances to pass any given course distributed over two (2) consecutive academic years.

Each academic year consists of two calls: one (1) ordinary call (during the semester when the course is taking place); and one (1) extraordinary call (or "re-sit") in June/July.

Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance requirement in each subject during the semester will automatically fail both calls (ordinary and extraordinary) for that Academic Year and have to re-take the course (i.e., re-enroll) during the next Academic Year.

The Extraordinary Call Evaluation criteria will be subject to the following rules:

Students failing the course in the ordinary call (during the semester) will have to re-sit evaluation for the course in June / July (except those students who do not comply with the attendance rule, and therefore will not have that opportunity, since they will fail both calls and must directly re-enroll in the course during the next Academic Year).

It is not permitted to change the format nor the date of the extraordinary call exams or deadlines under any circumstance. All extraordinary call evaluation dates will be announced in advance and must be taken into consideration before planning the summer (e.g. internships, trips, holidays, etc.)

The June/July re-sit will consist of a comprehensive evaluation of the course. Your final grade for the course will depend on the performance in this exam or evaluation only. I.e., continuous evaluation over the semester (e.g. participation, quizzes, projects and/or other grade components over the semester) will not be taken into consideration on the extraordinary call. Students will have to achieve the minimum passing grade of 5 and the maximum grade will be capped at 8.0 (out of 10.0) – i.e., “notable” in the extraordinary call.

Re-takers: Students who failed the subject on a previous Academic Year and are now re-enrolled as re-takers in a course will need to check the syllabus of the assigned professor, as well as contact the professor individually, regarding the specific evaluation criteria for them as re-takers in the course during that semester (ordinary call of that Academic Year). The maximum grade that may be obtained as a retaker during the ordinary call (i.e., the 3rd call) is 10.0 (out of 10.0).

After exams and other assessments are graded by the professor (on either the ordinary or extraordinary call), students will have a possibility to attend a review session (whether it be a final exam, a final project, or the final overall grade in a given course). Please be available to attend the session in order to clarify any concerns you might have regarding your grade. Your professor will inform you about the time and place of the review session.

Students failing more than 18 ECTS credits after the June/July re-sits will be asked to leave the Program. Please, make sure to prepare yourself well for the exams in order to pass your failed subjects.

In case you decide to skip the opportunity to re-sit for an exam or evaluation during the June/July extraordinary call, you will need to enroll in that course again for the next Academic Year as a re-taker, and pay the corresponding tuition fees. As you know, students have a total of four (4) allowed calls to pass a given subject or course, in order to remain in the program.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compulsory

- Anthony Giddens. (2021). *Introduction to Sociology*. 12th edition. W.W. Norton and Company. ISBN 9780393538021 (Printed)

OTHER INFORMATION

Questions and office hours:

If you have a question(s) that was not answered in class, you are welcome to ask your question(s) via email. I can be reached at: echevere@faculty.ie.edu. Although I will make every effort to respond to your question(s) as quickly and thoroughly as possible, please recognize that I may not be available when you send an email. Thus, please allow me up to 48 hours to respond before sending a follow-up email.

If your question cannot be properly answered via email and/or you would prefer to meet in person, please make an appointment to meet with me on the university campus during my scheduled office hours. Office hours will be determined at the beginning of the semester and posted on Campus Online.

As per University Policy:

Each student has 4 chances to pass any given course distributed in two consecutive academic years (regular period and July period).

It is mandatory to attend 100% of the classes. Students who do not comply with at least 70% attendance will lose their 1st and 2nd chance, and go directly to the 3rd one (they will need to enroll again in this course the next academic year).

Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

1. Those students who failed the subject in the first regular period will have to do a retake in July (except those not complying with attendance rules who are banned from this possibility).
2. Dates and location of the July retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed. Please take this into consideration when planning your summer.
3. The maximum grade that a student may obtain in the 2nd exam session is 8 out of 10. Those students in the 3rd call will be required to attend 50% of the classes. If due to schedule overlap, a different option will be discussed with the professor in order to pass the subject.

Attendance:

Attendance at all scheduled classes is mandatory and essential for success in the course. If you miss class for any reason, you are responsible for getting notes from classmates. If you have questions about any assignment please send me an email. Under most circumstances, students who miss a class in which a presentation, mid-term, or final exam is held will not be granted an exception or given an opportunity to do a make-up assignment or exam. However, if illness or other circumstances prevent you from adhering to the assignment/presentation due dates stated in this syllabus, an exception may be granted at the discretion of the professor. In all cases, the student must provide official documentation (e.g., from a medical doctor, counsellor) to the professor within 24 hours of the missed due date.

Special Attention Students:

To request academic accommodations due to special attention needs, please contact Jessica Tollette via email at: Jessica.Tollette@ie.edu.

Student Privacy Statement:

At times, students may disclose personal information through class discussions. It is expected that all members of the class will respect the privacy of their classmates. This means that the information disclosed in the class will not be repeated or discussed with other students outside of the course.

Decisions about Grades: Decisions about grades are made very carefully, and are final at the end of the course. If you have questions regarding a certain grade or you would like to receive personal feedback, you must request a meeting with me to discuss grades on specific assignments before the last class of the course. Any disputes regarding grades must be resolved before the final exam. "Extra credit" or makeup assignments will only be allowed under extenuating circumstances at the sole discretion of the course professor.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Unless you are specifically instructed to work with other students in a group, all of your assignments, papers, projects, presentations, and any work I assign must reflect your own work and thinking.

What is academic integrity? When you do the right thing even though no one is watching. The core values of integrity, both academic and otherwise include: honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility, and trust. Academic Integrity requires that all students within Instituto de Empresa (IE) act in accordance with these values in the conduct of their academic work, and that they follow the rules and regulations concerning the accepted conduct, practices and procedures of academic research and writing. Academic Integrity violations are defined as Cheating, Plagiarism or other violations of academic ethics.

Cheating and plagiarism are very serious offenses governed by the IE student code of conduct. Any student found cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment or component of this course will at a minimum receive a "0" on the affected assignment. Moreover, the student will also be referred to the University Judicial System for further action. Additional penalties could include a note on your transcript, failing the class, or expulsion from the university.

It is important to note that, while the list below is comprehensive, it should not be considered exhaustive.

Cheating includes:

- a. An act or attempt to give, receive, share, or utilize unauthorized information or unauthorized assistance at any time for assignments, papers, projects, presentations, tests or examinations. Students are permitted to mentor and/or assist other students with assignments by providing insight and/or advice. However, students must not allow other students to copy their work, nor will students be permitted to copy the work of other students. Students must acknowledge when they have received assistance from others.
- b. Failure to follow rules on assignments, papers, projects, presentations, tests or examinations as provided by the course professor and/or as stipulated by IE.
- c. Unauthorized co-operation or collaboration.
- d. Tampering with official documents, including electronic records.
- e. The impersonation of a student on presentations, exercises, tests or an examination. This includes logging onto any electronic course management tool or program (e.g. Black Board, etc.) using someone else's login and password.

Plagiarism includes:

- a. Using the work of others and attempting to present it as your own. For example, using phrases or passages from books, articles, newspapers, or the internet and not referencing them properly in your document. This includes using information from others without citing it, misrepresentation of cited work, and misuse of quotation marks.
- b. Submitting an assignment or paper that is highly similar to what someone else has written (i.e., minimal changes in wording, or where the sentences are similar, but in a different order).
- c. You don't have to commit "word for word" copying to plagiarize – you can also plagiarize if you turn in something that is "thought for thought" the same as someone else.

Other violations of academic ethics include:

- a. Not acknowledging that your work or any part thereof has been submitted for credit elsewhere.
- b. Misleading or false statements regarding work completed.
- c. Knowingly aiding or abetting anyone in committing any form of an Academic Integrity violation.

CODE OF CONDUCT IN CLASS

1. Be on time: Students arriving more than 5 minutes late will be marked as "Absent". Only students that notify in advance in writing that they will be late for a specific session may be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).
2. If applicable, bring your name card and strictly follow the seating chart. It helps faculty members and fellow students learn your names.
3. Do not leave the room during the lecture: Students are not allowed to leave the room during lectures. If a student leaves the room during lectures, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter and, therefore, will be marked as "Absent". Only students that notify that they have a special reason to leave the session early will be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).
4. Do not engage in side conversation. As a sign of respect toward the person presenting the lecture (the teacher as well as fellow students), side conversations are not allowed. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask it. If you do not want to ask it during the lecture, feel free to approach your teacher after class. If a student is disrupting the flow of the lecture, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom and, consequently, will be marked as "Absent".
5. Use your laptop for course-related purposes only. The use of laptops during lectures must be authorized by the professor. The use of Social Media or accessing any type of content not related to the lecture is penalized. The student will be asked to leave the room and, consequently, will be marked as "Absent".
6. No cellular phones: IE University implements a "Phone-free Classroom" policy and, therefore, the use of phones, tablets, etc. is forbidden inside the classroom. Failing to abide by this rule entails expulsion from the room and will be counted as one absence.
7. Escalation policy: 1/3/5. Items 4, 5, and 6 above entail expulsion from the classroom and the consequent marking of the student as "Absent." IE University implements an "escalation policy": The first time a student is asked to leave the room for disciplinary reasons (as per items 4, 5, and 6 above), the student will incur one absence, the second time it will count as three absences, and from the third time onward, any expulsion from the classroom due to disciplinary issues will entail 5 absences.

BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ETHICAL POLICY

Please, check the University's Ethics Code [here](#). The Program Director may

provide further indications.