

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL PROCESSES

INTRODUCTION

The stability and change that are part of social reality mean that these components and their internal interdependencies can only be studied as procedural aspects of the same phenomenon. This subject seeks to rescue the traditional dichotomy between action and structure on the basis of the modification that, in evolutionary terms, affects the whole of the social system within the framework of dynamic balance. This is something that does not discount, for analytical and pedagogical purposes, the need to distinguish the least cyclical – processes – from the rules that create organized social behaviour – institutions.

The future adjustment of students to Spain's social context also requires us to analyse the paradigm of the new social structure that is developing on a planetary scale, focusing attention on the differential interactions that the most recent socio-technological processes have incorporated into the history and culture of our country.

COMPETENCIES

- Distinguish analytically the basic components of society and know the interrelations existing among them.
- Understand the social transformations generated by the industrialization process, as well as by the vectors of change that, driven by new information technologies, underpin the new knowledge-based society and its networked structures.
- Be able to relate what has been learnt with the problems facing one's future profession, such that knowledge obtained allows one to contextualize specific situations, cases and actions within the framework of a social organization that adds to marginalization and poverty the vulnerability that results from social exclusion processes related to changes in the workplace.

CONTENT

1. The concept of social structure. Characteristics of structure. Social structure as a network of relationships. Areas of study involved in social structure. Individual-societal relations via the main social paradigms.
2. Cultural and social structure. Structural elements of culture. Circular relationship of over-determination between a society and its culture. The Internet and the new construction of cultural identity.
3. Social change. Sociology and social change. Tradition, modernization and postmodernity. Causes of social change. Technology and social change. Techno-structure and the new information society.
4. The process of social institutionalization. Population and demographics. Family. Religion. Education. Power and political organizations. Economy, consumption and employment.
5. Social processes. Globalization and new forms of work. Inequality, stratification and social exclusion. New social movements. Cultural diversity and multicultural conflicts. Transgressive sexualities and new perspectives for a redefinition of gender identity.