

Academic Program Understanding the Chilean Social Context

A. General Background

1. Academic Unit	Vice-Rectory for Innovation and Development									
2. Degree Program	Office of Globalization									
3. Name in English	Understanding the Chilean Social Context									
4. Code	DRI451									
5. Position in the curriculum	Bachelor / Licentiate / Professional Qualification									
6. Credits	10									
7. Type of course or academic activity	Compulsory		Elective			X	Optional			
8. Duration	Bimonthly		Semester	X	Quarterly		Annual		Other	
9. Weekly modules	Theoretical classes	2	Practical classes			X	Tutorials			
10. Academic hours	Classes	68	Practical field activities				Tutorials			
11. Prerequisite	None									

B. Contribution to Graduate Profile

Considering changes in the work environment, especially those related to the global context, diversity, and interdisciplinary perspectives, the Universidad del Desarrollo has proposed educating its students through an Educational Project that, along with providing a solid disciplinary education and in coherence with labor market needs, develops new skills, **competencies**, and knowledge that enable students to successfully face the professional scenario awaiting them at the end of their undergraduate studies.

In this context, academic activities and extra-disciplinary courses arise, organized into Tracks or thematic pathways whose objective is to contribute, through the student's extra-disciplinary education, to their participation in richer learning experiences that prepare them for a changing labor market.

This course seeks to provide university students with a comprehensive understanding of the Chilean social context, its main structural challenges, the existing institutional ecosystem, the strategies implemented to address social issues, and the country’s future challenges. Through the analysis of real cases, applied work, and experiential learning, students will develop a critical and comparative view of social development in Chile.

It is linked to the Humanities and Public Responsibility track, promoting competencies such as sociocultural understanding, critical thinking, and responsible participation.

C. General Competencies and Learning Outcomes

Generic Competencies	General Learning Outcomes
Public Responsibility Global Vision Critical Thinking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyzes the social, economic, environmental, political, and cultural context of Chile, identifying continuities and recent transformations based on relevant sources. 2. Recognizes their role as a student and future professional in promoting social and environmental well-being in Chile, proposing actions consistent with their field of training. 3. Relates current issues in Chile to historical processes and global dynamics, using well-founded information. 4. Evaluates diverse perspectives on Chile’s development, arguing their judgments using evidence from reliable sources.

D. Content Units and Learning Outcomes

Content Units	Competency	Learning Outcomes
Unit I: Chile Today – Historical, Political and Social Foundations - Recent history of Chile - Economic model and social development - Social uprising of 2019 - Main current social debates	Public Responsibility	Analyzes historical milestones and development models in Chile, identifying the tensions that manifest today based on relevant sources.

<p>Unit II: Main Social Challenges in Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poverty and inequality - Education and access gaps - Health system - Housing and urban segregation - Migration and multiculturalism - Indigenous peoples - Gender equity 	Global Vision	Evaluates the functioning of political institutions and the role of citizens in processes of change in Chile, supporting their judgments with evidence.
<p>Unit III: Institutional Ecosystem and Social Actors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of the State - NGOs and foundations - International organizations - Universities and social responsibility - Community organizations 	Critical Thinking	Relates socio-environmental conflicts in Chile to economic and political dynamics, using information from reliable sources.
<p>Unit IV: Social Strategies and Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public policies - Social innovation - Social entrepreneurship - Public–private partnerships - Impact evaluation 	Public Responsibility	Analyzes cultural expressions and identities present in Chilean society, recognizing tensions and forms of resistance through the examination of relevant cases or sources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unit V: Future Challenges and Emerging Scenarios - Population aging - Climate change - Digital divide - Political polarization - Sustainable Development Goals 	Public Responsibility Critical Thinking	Analyzes future challenges and emerging scenarios in the national context, such as population aging, climate change, digital divide, political polarization, and the Sustainable Development Goals, identifying their main social, economic, and political implications.

E. Teaching Strategies

Course taught in English, incorporating lectures combined with guided discussions, collaborative work, and analysis of current Chilean cases. Readings and audiovisual resources in English. Experiential learning through individual and group reflections, aligned with UDD’s extra-disciplinary education.

F. Assessment Strategies

Reading quizzes, analytical essays, individual and group assignments, oral presentations, and a final integrative project on a Chilean issue. Emphasis on critical analysis, well-founded argumentation, and alignment with competencies.

G. Learning Resources

Required bibliography

United Nations Development Programme. (2024). *Informe de Desarrollo Humano Chile 2024: Desigualdad y territorio*. PNUD

Chile. https://www.cl.undp.org/content/chile/es/home/library/human_development/informe-desarrollo-humano-chile-2024.html

World Bank. (2025). *Chile economic update*

2025. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/chile/publication/chile-economic-update>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2023). *OECD environmental performance reviews: Chile 2023*. <https://www.oecd.org/environment/country-reviews/chile-2023.htm>

Complementary bibliography

Oxford University Press. (2022). *Oxford handbook of Latin American politics* (chapters on Chile). <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/41360>

Freedom House. (2025). *Freedom in the world 2025:*

Chile. <https://freedomhouse.org/country/chile/freedom-world/2025>

Human Rights Watch. (2024). *World report 2024: Chile*. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/chile>

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2025). *CEPAL publications on Chile: Social development*. <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications>

Digital resources

Government of Chile. (2026). *Official government portal (English version)*. <https://www.gob.cl/en/>

International Monetary Fund. (2025). *IMF country report No. 25/XXX*

Chile. <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/CHL>

BBC News. (2024). *Chile protests and social movements coverage* [Video series]. <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/c404v0j4x28t/chile>

Other resources

UDD virtual platform for course materials, forums, and assignment submission.

Guest lectures with international experts in Chilean studies.