

Places and Regions in Human Geography

Code: 100333
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500256 Social and Cultural Anthropology	FB	1	2
2500501 History	FB	1	1
2502758 Humanities	FB	1	2
2503710 Geography, Environmental Management and Spatial Planning	FB	1	1

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Other comments on languages

At the start of term, in the group in English, students must demonstrate that they have already acquired, at least, a B2 level in English language. This is a basic requirement in order to be able to participate in activities of this course.

Teachers

Antoni Durà Guimerà
Nuria Valdovinos Perdices
Antoni Ramón Riba
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Ricard Morén Alegret
Anna Ortiz Guitart
Guillem Vich Callejo

Prerequisites

Apart from the general knowledge acquired for passing university access exams, the only other general requirement for participating in this course is to have interest for learning about complex issues. This is a general requirement for any university student along the years.

In addition, students should also have at least basic knowledge in some Romance languages (e.g. Spanish, Catalan, French, Portuguese, Italian) and English in order to be able to read geographical texts in various languages.

At the start of term, in the group in English, students must demonstrate that they have already acquired, at least, a B2 level in English language. This is a basic requirement in order to be able to participate in this course.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course is mainly devoted to first year students of the BA in Anthropology, the BA in History and the BA in Humanities.

Goals of the subject: It constitutes an introduction to the main human geography topics for social sciences and humanities students. It pays preferential attention to some of the most significant aspects of the contemporary world.

The program is structured in four main issues: human population dynamics and structure; economic geography; political geography; and cultural geography. These issues will be approached from a world perspective, paying special attention to interrelations in the uneven, interrelated and unequal planet that we inhabit.

At the end of the academic term, students will acquire the following:

1. Basic and fundamental knowledge on each topic approached.
2. A command on the most important concepts in human geography.
3. A global vision and some basic interpretative tools about the world order functioning.
4. An understanding of the main geographical elements, which form the structure of territories around the world.
5. A capacity to analyse and to interpret geographical information and data.
6. A capacity to connect in a significant way a variety of topics in the course program.

Skills

Social and Cultural Anthropology

- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

History

- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

Humanities

- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.

- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

Geography, Environmental Management and Spatial Planning

- Analyse and understand geographical dynamics (sociodemographics, geo-economics and environmental) on different territorial scales.
- Critically analyse the relationship between society and the region applying the conceptual and theoretical framework of geography.
- Demonstrate skills of self-analysis and self-criticism
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Systematically analyse and interpret environmental, demographic, urban and landscape elements.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse and interpret the diversity of social and cultural phenomena in the world.
2. Analysing the main dynamics of today's world from a geographic viewpoint.
3. Analysing the main dynamics of today's world from a geographical point of view.
4. Carrying out an individual work that specifies the work plan and timing of activities.
5. Compare and contrast major geographical information.
6. Comparing and contrasting the different interpretations of geographic maps.
7. Consider problems of inequality, population distribution and urbanisation in the world, among other things.
8. Consider problems of physical, economic, social and cultural diversity in regions.
9. Contrasting and comparing several interpretations of geographical maps.
10. Demonstrate skills of self-analysis and self-criticism.
11. Describing spatial relationships of the physical, economic, social and cultural diversity of territories on different territorial scales.
12. Describing the economic, social and cultural world's main problems.
13. Describing the main economic, social and cultural contemporary problems in the world.
14. Describing the spatial relationships, on different territorial scales, of the physical, economic, social and cultural territorial diversity.
15. Distinguish between the main causes and consequences of the urbanisation process.
16. Explaining the specific notions of Geography.
17. Explaining the structure of today's world from a geographic viewpoint.
18. Explaining the structure of today's world from a geographical point of view.
19. Identify geographical diversity on a global scale in human processes.
20. Identifying the main ideas of a related text and drawing a diagram.
21. Identifying the main ideas of a subject-related text and making a diagram.
22. Interpreting today's main events from physical, economic, social and cultural diversity.
23. Presenting the specific concepts of Geography.
24. Producing an individual work that specifies the work plan and timing of activities.
25. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
26. Use the main concepts related to territory and their consequences.

Content

1. **Presentation**
2. **Human population**
3. **A geographical vision of the world economy**
4. **Political geography: a complex and changing world**
5. **Cultural geography**

Methodology

-The evaluation will be continuous and mainly on-site. It will include in-class exercises, assignments, homework, participation, a written exam, a written essay, an oral presentation of the essay, field visits and assessments.

-All activities have a deadline that must be met strictly, according to the proposed schedule.

-The student must take into account the news and information weekly published on the Virtual Campus / Moodle.

-If the student does more than a 0% of the course tasks, s/he will be assessed.

-To pass the subject students need a 5 (minimum).

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Guided classes	30	1.2	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 15, 4, 24, 17, 18, 16, 23, 19, 21, 20, 22, 7, 8, 25, 26
Type: Supervised			
Practical exercises in the classroom	6	0.24	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 15, 4, 24, 17, 18, 16, 23, 19, 21, 20, 22, 7, 8, 25, 26
Tutorial supervision of the course essay	4	0.16	2, 9, 12, 4, 17, 16, 21, 22
Type: Autonomous			
Carrying out a course essay	40	1.6	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 15, 4, 24, 17, 18, 16, 23, 19, 21, 20, 22, 7, 8, 25, 26
Comments after reading academic books, journal articles, etc.	50	2	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 15, 4, 24, 17, 18, 16, 23, 19, 21, 20, 22, 7, 8, 25, 26
Personal study effort	17	0.68	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 15, 4, 24, 17, 18, 16, 23, 19, 21, 20, 22, 7, 8, 25, 26

Evaluation

Some of the main **evaluation activities** are the following:

- 1) Written exams: capacity to interrelate the different geographical issues studied in the course.

2) Course essay: capacity to search for information, to select it, to synthesise it and to organise it in a rational way. In addition, capacity to submit formally presented, almost impeccable texts. Face-to-face working meetings will be put into value.

3) Comments on reading materials: capacity to analyse and synthesise various texts.

4) Practical exercises: capacity to solve specific problems. In addition, capacity to orally present information and data.

At the start of term, the lecturers of each group will indicate further details about evaluation procedures and dates.

VERY IMPORTANT: *Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the plagiarised exercise (first-year subjects) or the WHOLE SUBJECT (second-, third- and fourth-year subjects). PLAGIARISING consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text- with the intention of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting and pasting from Internet sources, presented unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarising is a SERIOUS OFFENCE. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.*

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Course essay	35%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 15, 4, 24, 17, 18, 16, 23, 19, 21, 20, 22, 7, 8, 25, 26
Participation and practical exercises in the classroom & other places	10%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 15, 4, 24, 17, 18, 16, 23, 19, 21, 20, 22, 7, 8, 25, 26
Practical exercises (comments on texts)	20%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 15, 4, 24, 17, 18, 16, 23, 19, 21, 20, 22, 7, 8, 25, 26
Written exams	35%	3	0.12	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 15, 4, 24, 17, 18, 16, 23, 19, 21, 20, 22, 7, 8, 25, 26

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Atlases published in various languages by *Le Monde Diplomatique* during the last years can be useful, see: <https://mondediplo.com>

During the course, additional academic books, journal articles and databases will be recommended.