

Introduction to Cartography

Code: 104235
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503710 Geography, Environmental Management and Spatial Planning	FB	1	1

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Use of Languages

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

Prerequisites

Without prerequisites

Objectives and Contextualisation

The objective of the subject of Cartography is to provide the keys that allow a correct temporal contextualization of the cartographic materials produced in the European cultural and social tradition as well as the assessment of its importance in the development of Earth sciences.

The fundamental activity that will be required of the student is the observation of the cartographic materials and their understanding in accordance with the following guidelines:

- as a material that facilitates the reconstruction of the current and past landscape,
- as an evidence of social organization and of human life,
- as an illustration of the knowledge of the Earth, and
- as a product of methods and techniques of representation of geographical distributions of all kinds

With these assumptions to cover, the programming of an introductory course to the Cartography, in the frame of some studies of geography and ordering of the territory in a more humanistic than technical key, must be articulated around the history of the maps, in particular, and of the scope of geographic documentation, in general. However, it is also essential to acquire basic knowledge about the practical characteristics of maps: reading, drawing, semiology, etc. Without these utilitarian blankets, little could be advanced in the study of their history. I insist, however, that the general orientation of the contents of the subject is decidedly dedicated to a more literary and humanistic vision than the technique of cartography. You will have the opportunity to know and practice this last aspect in other subjects of the Degree such as, for example, Techniques in Geography, Geographic Information Systems or Remote Sensing and Photointerpretation.

Competences

- Combine distinct techniques and methods of representation and spatial analysis in elaborating materials for transmitting results.
- Draw up action and intervention plans in the territory which respond to sociodemographic and environmental problems.
- Systematically analyse and interpret environmental, demographic, urban and landscape elements.

Learning Outcomes

1. Combine distinct techniques and methods of representation and spatial analysis in elaborating materials for transmitting results.
2. Demonstrate geographical problems in cartographic information.
3. Identify the best way to show information in maps.
4. Summarise geographical information in basic cartographic products.

Content

Maps...

I The geographical documentation

II Control of dimensions and absolute location

III The geographical value of the relative location

IV The application of visual variables

V The cartographic expression

... and history

1 The medieval mappaemundi

2 Portulan charts

3 Ptolemy rediscovered

4 The cartographic record of discoveries

5 Gerard Mercator and nautical cartography

6 Abraham Ortelius and the strength of the Atlas

7 Regional and local dissemination

8 The issue of the location and progress of geodesy

9 Cartography, statistics and geography

10 The cartography of Catalonia of the 20th and 21st centuries

Methodology

The ordinary follow-up of the course will consist of the study of the topics proposed in the previous section at the rate of one per week. The study materials of each of the fifteen subjects will be published in digital format, in a web independent from the Moodle classroom. When I open each topic, I will send the general presentation, complementary orientations of the materials and a proposal for participation in the associated forum.

And the teacher, how will you appreciate your normal and gradual use? In three ways. In the first place, due to the ability to improve quality in carrying out the exercises proposed in each of the subjects. An exercise will be proposed in each session, which must be given at the end of the class. Some of these exercises will be the basis to complete outside of class, within ten or fifteen days.

Second, for their participation in the forums, one for each topic. The contributions to the forums will consist of presentations of materials found on Internet sites, duly documented and commented. It is not, in any way, "doing a job" for each topic. It would be humanly impossible for lack of time and sufficient prior knowledge. Rather, this activity will involve the use, very timely, of the resources available on the Internet about maps and their history, and make their findings available to fellow students of the subject.

Finally, in the third place, both the study of the materials and the bibliography and their participation in the forums can motivate me to ask for advice, comments or clarifications. The intensity and fluidity of these private communications will be another index of their use.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Exercices	50	2	1, 3
Type: Supervised			
Forums	25	1	2
Type: Autonomous			
Study	75	3	4

Assessment

The follow-up of the course gives rise to the continuous evaluation. The positive use in the three aspects discussed in the section on course development (exercises, forums and study queries) will result in a final grade that may vary from the approved to the excellent. It is already understood, then, that if the use has been positive, consequently, it can not be suspended.

How will normal use be valued? As I have advanced above, for the ability to improve quality in carrying out the exercises proposed in each of the topics. As for the participation in the forums, I will retain the interest, conciseness and originality of the contribution. Obviously, great as the contributions are, they can not be sporadic. To overcome this criterion, it will be necessary to intervene in a minimum of eight forums. I think it is advisable to warn that an excess of participations will not necessarily compensate the quality shown. It's about ensuring a rhythm, even with gaps, avoiding last minute slides. I will value the ability to communicate with the teacher, through tutoring, in dealing with issues directly related to the topics, of course. Each one of the elements of the evaluation (exercises, forums and study queries) will be evaluated summarily: improvable, correct or very correct.

Students must hold an interview with the teacher towards the last week of November, or the first of December. It will be individual, private and mandatory. The teacher will inform them of the evolution of their learning, through the commentary of the exercises delivered and the participations in the forums carried out, and will advance a provisional grade (0-10), as if the subject stopped mid-semester. With this, students will be aware of the progress of their continuous assessment, their strengths and their shortcomings.

As it can be supposed, the assessment of the normal follow-up of the course will be based on the degree of continuity of communication between student and teacher. Eclipses, disappearances, concealments or ghosts are very negative phenomena, much more than lapses and errors, for the evaluation of a course. This is what we must try to avoid above all. An insufficient number of participations in the forums and of deliveries of exercises, which means, in the latter case and for the face-to-face groups, of attendance to class, will cause the evaluation of the student as not evaluable. In this situation, the student will not be able to take the re-evaluation exam, precisely because he / she could not be evaluated.

Students who wish to improve the grade obtained during the continuous assessment may take an optional exam on the day and time set by the Faculty.

The copy or plagiarism of material, both in the case of work and in the case of examinations, constitute a crime that will be sanctioned with a zero to the activity. In case of recidivism the entire subject will be suspended. Remember that a job that reproduces all or a large part of the work of one or the other partner is considered a "copy". "Plagiarism" is the fact of presenting all or part of a text by an author as his own, without citing the sources, whether on paper or in digital format. See UAB documentation on "plagiarism" to: http://wuster.uab.es/web_argumenta_obert/unit_20/sot_2_01.html

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Forums	33,3%	0	0	2, 4
In class exercises	33,3%	0	0	1, 3
Outside class exercises	33,3%	0	0	1, 3

Bibliography

We must insist that the bibliographic readings are not of primary interest in this subject. Therefore, the list of books that follows is only a reminder of the works, and in this case the most general, in which the contents presented in the web of the materials of the subject can be reinforced.

Bertin, J (1973): *La sémilogie graphique: les cartes, les diagrammes, les reseaux*. Paris: Gautier-Villars, 2ème ed.

Bertin, J (1988): *La gráfica y el tratamiento gráfico de la información*. Madrid: Taurus.

Bonin, S (1975): *Initiation a la graphique*. Paris: EPI.

Dent, JB (1996): *Cartography: thematic map design*. Dubuque IA: Wm C Brown Publishers, 4a ed.

McDonnell, PW (1979): *Introduction to Map Projections*. New York: Marcel Dekker.

Monkhouse, FJ; Wilkinson, HR (1966): *Mapas y diagramas: técnicas de elaboración y trazado*. Vilassar de Mar - Barcelona : Oikos-Tau.

Robinson, AH et al (1987): *Elementos de cartografía*. Omega. Barcelona.

Strahler, A (1975): *Geografía física*. Barcelona: Omega, 2a ed.

Vázquez Maure, F; Martín López, J (1989): *Lectura de mapas*. Madrid: Instituto Geográfico Nacional.