

Degree	Type	Year
2504216 Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OT	3
2504216 Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OT	4

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

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Prerequisites

Ability to read complex texts in English.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This subject aims to study the processes of change and transformation of a global nature that have urban impacts in cities all over the planet. More specifically, the challenges that these transformations represent with regard to the sustainable future of 21st century cities will be analyzed and the study of the contemporary city as a neuralgic center of political, economic, social and environmental dynamics will be deepened and cultural aspects of today's society.

The specific objectives of the subject are the following:

- Describe, explain and analyze the globalization process based on the study of different specific historical moments, with special attention to the current context.
- Explain the relationship between globalization processes of all types - economic; politics; environmental; social and cultural - and the analysis of the dynamics of urban transformation that characterize cities at the present time.
- Introduce the perspective of cities as a space of flows (of capital, people, cultures, resources, etc.) and the paradigm of political ecology as an analytical approach to understand the urban transformations of the current moment.
- Analyze the most relevant challenges to achieve sustainable cities and urban-metropolitan spaces, with special attention to climate change and the main environmental impacts in the different urban realities.
- To exemplify, through the explanation of specific cases, the global processes of urban transformation around

the planet, as well as the problems and socio-environmental challenges that these pose in various geographical contexts of the world (both in Europe and North America and in other continents).

Competences

Contemporary History, Politics and Economics

- Assess the social, economic and environmental impact when acting in this field of knowledge.
- Recognise institutional and regulatory design and the main economic policies implemented in current economies on different scales to manage economic growth and its cyclical oscillations.
- Relate fundamental questions of the current economic situation with previous economic developments on the basis of the main elements of contemporary economic history.
- 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.
- Work cooperatively in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams implementing new projects.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse and interpret the diversity of social and cultural phenomena in the world.
2. Consider problems of inequality, population distribution and urbanisation in the world, among other things.
3. Explain the common and distinctive elements of cities in different regional areas of the world.
4. Explaining the structure of today's world from a geographical point of view.
5. Propose viable projects and actions to boost social, economic and environmental benefits.
6. Work cooperatively in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams implementing new projects.

Content

SECTION I. Globalization processes in perspective

- Key definitions around the phenomenon of 'globalization'
- Globalization and the city: historical perspective and evolution of global processes (20th and 21st centuries)
- The different dimensions of globalization: economic, environmental, technological, social and cultural
- Global processes and local impacts in cities

SECTION II. The flows of the global city

- Capital flows: urban tertiaryisation, global real estate markets and gentrification
- Flows of people and cultures: migration, multiculturalism and tourism
- Flows of natural resources: water and energy
- Flows of food and goods

SECTION III. City and sustainability

- Urban Ecology and Urban Political Ecology
- Climate emergency and the post-oil global city
- City and sovereignty
- Urban social innovation for sustainability

SECTION IV. The cities of the world today

- Cities in Europe and North America.
- Cities in Latin America
- Cities in Asia
- Cities in Africa

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Practical sessions (PAUL)	16.5	0.66	1, 2, 5, 6
Theoretical lessons (TE)	32	1.28	1, 2, 3, 4
Type: Supervised			
Preparation of activities	5	0.2	1, 2, 3, 4
Realization of practical exercises	20	0.8	1, 2, 5, 6
Type: Autonomous			
Information search	18	0.72	2, 5, 6
Personal study	35	1.4	1, 2, 3, 4
Reading and watching audiovisuals	20	0.8	1, 2, 3, 4
Self-learning tests	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 4

The teaching activities of the subject will be structured as follows:

Directed activities

Theory classes (TE)

The following activities will be carried out in the face-to-face theory sessions:

Lectures: presentations by the teaching staff encouraging debate and student participation.

Exercises aimed at the classroom: exercises based on the active participation of the students (usually through informal cooperative work) that will not require previous work.

Cooperative work with preparation. Different formal cooperative work activities will be carried out based on the previous work of the students (readings, viewing of audiovisuals or preparation of the activity). Some of these activities may require oral presentations by the students.

Classroom practice (PAUL)

A total of 5 practices will be carried out in the classroom. Each of the practices will consist of two sessions. Some of these practices will require the search for data and its treatment through statistical software and/or the production of maps.

The teaching staff responsible for the practicals in the classroom will conveniently inform about the activity to be carried out in each of the practicals. As a result of these activities, students will have to complete different exercises.

Supervised activities

The students will carry out in a supervised manner the activities of the theory sessions (TE) that require prior preparation (readings, viewing of audiovisuals or preparation of the activity), as well as the realization of the practical exercises derived from classroom practices (PAUL).

Students are expected to attend class and ask questions by actively participating in both theory and practical sessions. However, you can consult with the teaching staff using the virtual campus, the e-mail of the teaching team or using the established face-to-face tutoring schedule (both individually and in groups).

Autonomous activities

It will take an individual effort to settle the theoretical classes and the knowledge of the practical part. Students are expected to work on all this knowledge through continuous personal study throughout the course, completing the required readings, consulting the recommended bibliography, watching audio-visuals, searching of information for carrying out the practices, etc.

On the other hand, in each of the blocks of the syllabus, a self-learning test will be posted on the Virtual Campus that will provide feedback to the students.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final exam	40%	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 3, 4
Participation in theory sessions (TE)	15%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Practical exercises (PAUL)	35%	0	0	2, 3, 5, 6
Self-learning tests	10%	0	0	1, 3, 4

The evaluation of the subject is based on:

- Final exam: 40%
- Practical exercises (PAUL): 35%
- Participation in theory sessions (TE): 15%
- Self-learning tests: 10%

The final mark will come from the weighted average of the four activities. To pass the subject you must have passed (5) both the final exam and the average of the exercises in the classroom practices.

Final exam

At the end of the course, students will have to take an individual exam to evaluate the knowledge gained in the subject as a whole. All the contents of the subject (theory, practices, activities, readings, audio-visuals, etc.) can be evaluated in the final exam.

Practical exercises (PAUL)

A total of 5 practical group exercises will be carried out as a result of the classroom practices (PAUL). Each of these exercises will count for 20% of this part of the grade.

It is necessary to respect the delivery dates of the jobs established by the teaching staff. The late delivery of classroom practice exercises (PAUL) will be penalized with a 20% reduction in the grade.

Participation in theory sessions

The grade corresponding to the participation in the theory sessions (TE) will be obtained through different deliveries (individual or group) corresponding to the various activities that the teaching staff may propose during the development of these sessions (debates, summaries, cooperative work, oral presentations...) Some of these activities may require prior preparation. Participation in these activities is not mandatory; however, in those activities that are not attended, the grade will be zero (0), with no possibility of making the delivery at any other time.

Self-learning tests

Finally, in each of the blocks of the syllabus, a self-learning test will be posted on the Virtual Campus with a deadline to answer it. The test will provide feedback to the student. In this sense, the fact of doing it will be taken into account (not the score obtained in it). Completion of each of the 4 tests will count for 25% of this part of the grade.

Review of grades

At the time of carrying out each assessment activity, the teaching staff will inform the students (through the Virtual Campus) of the procedure and date of review of the qualifications.

Recovery

The exam and the practical exercises in the classroom (PAUL) can be recovered, as long as a grade of less than 5 has been obtained. The assignments of the activities of the theory sessions (TE) and the self-learning tests they are not recoverable. The maximum mark for the recovered activities is 5.

Not assessable

Those who have not taken and passed the exam and/or who have not passed at least 2 of the 5 classroom practices (PAUL) are considered "non-evaluable".

Undelivered activities will be graded as zero (0).

Plagiarism

In the event that the student commits any irregularity that could lead to a significant variation in the grade of an assessment act, this assessment act will be graded with 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that may be instituted. In the event that several irregularities occur in the evaluation acts of the same subject, the final grade for this subject will be 0.

Unique assessment

The single evaluation procedure will consist of:

- Final exam: 40%
- Classroom practices (delivery of the 5 practices on the day of the assessment): 35%

- Essay (the teaching staff will conveniently inform about the topic and the characteristics of the essay that will have to be handed in on the day of the assessment): 30%

Bibliography

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Stiglitz, Joseph (2002). *El malestar de la globalización*. Taurus.

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World Cities Report (2016). *Urbanization and Development. Emerging Futures*. UNHABITAT.

World Cities Report (2020). *The Value of Sustainable Urbanization*. UNHABITAT.

Software

Office package
Basic statistics software.

Language list

Information on the teaching languages can be checked on the CONTENTS section of the guide.