UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Social History of Knowledge

Code: 106217
ECTS Credits: 6

2024/2025

Degree	Type	Year
2504235 Science, Technology and Humanities	FB	1

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this document.

Prerequisites

The subject does not require to have taken any specific subjects of the degree.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The subject presents a social and cultural history of knowledge, in a broad sense. It addresses the different mechanisms of construction and circulation of knowledge about nature and society, from an interdisciplinary perspective. Through the historical study of institutions, spaces and objects, and their interaction with diverse protagonists, the changing frontiers of knowledge and the mechanisms of construction of authority and cultural hegemony are analyzed. The course offers the student a critical and renewed vision of the modernization processes that have led to the contemporary era.

Competences

- Identify the various philosophical, ethical and sociological conceptions of science and technology and recognise their evolution throughout history.
- Innovate in the methods and processes of this area of knowledge in response to the needs and wishes of society.
- Make critical use of digital tools and interpret specific documentary sources.
- Produce written papers and give effective oral presentations, adopting the appropriate register in different languages.

- Recognise the political, social and cultural dimension of science and technology development in the different historical periods.
- 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.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the specific vocabulary produced by each of the actors and groups studied.
2. Apply the knowledge acquired in complex or professional work settings.
3. Correctly use the specific terminology of social and cultural history.
4. Describe the natureinterdisciplinary nature of knowledge.
5. Explain the main aspects of the social history of knowledge using the terminology specific to the discipline.
6. Express, orally in writing, complex concepts from the historiography of knowledge and classical texts.
7. Identify the intrinsic methods of history and their relationship to the analysis of specific events.
8. Identify the main ideas in a text on the subject area and produce a schematic diagram.
9. Identify the most important changes in conceptions of knowledge and its structure.
10. Identify the principal historiographic debates on the historical development of knowledge.
11. Make a plan for producing a paper on the subject area.
12. Produce organised, correct discourse: oral and written.
13. Recognise and interpret all kinds of sources in social and cultural history.
14. Recognise the historical, social and cultural dimension of knowledge.
15. Relate the elements and factors that intervene in the development of the historical processes.
16. Take part in debates on historical and present-day events, respecting the opinions of the other participants.
17. Take part in oral classroom debates from a critical standpoint, using the vocabulary of the discipline.
18. Work collaboratively and efficiently in teams.

Content

Introduction: The social and cultural historiography of knowledge.
Oral knowledge: Collective knowledge, tacit skills.
Written knowledge: Laws, manuscripts and intellectuals.
Printed knowledge: Books, language and nomenclature.
The classification of knowledge: Taxonomies and encyclopedias.
Visual knowledge: Spaces, images, landscapes.
Material knowledge: Objects, experiments, observations.
Knowledge as a commodity: Exhibitions, fairs and museums.
The organization of knowledge: Academies, universities and societies.
Useful knowledge: Trade, industry and war.
The geography of knowledge: Centers and peripheries.
Knowledge audiences: Readers, students, amateurs.
The frontiers of knowledge: Experts, professionals and authority.
Digital knowledge: Artificial intelligence and globalization.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Guided learning exercises	16	0.64	7, 18, 3
theoretical class	33	1.32	2, 12
Type: Supervised			
tutorials	4.25	0.17	1, 10, 15
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study	48	1.92	11
Research and reading. Preparation of exercices	38.75	1.55	1, 4, 11, 9, 10, 17, 16, 15

Theoretical lectures: Presentation of each theme (aims, contents, related texts).
Practical lectures: Analysis and discussion of the theme's readings.
Personal work: Guided reading of texts, study, elaboration of essays and essay review.

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

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Essays (4)	40%	5	0.2	1, 12, 6, 9, 10, 8, 17, 16, 13, 14, 15, 18, 3
Test 1	30%	2.5	0.1	12, 11, 3
Test 2	30%	2.5	0.1	1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 7, 10, 8, 15

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

There will be a reevaluation exam. Students will obtain a "Not assessed/Not submitted" course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items. To be reevaluated, you must have been evaluated in a set of activities whose weight equals to a minimum of two thirds of the total grade of the subject. The exam will be made on the dates specified by the faculty; will not be to improve grade; the maximum rating is 5.0.

Misconduct in assessment activities: In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Single assessment. Title of the evidence: Exam, first part of the course (30%); Exam, Second part of the course exam (30%); Test, lectures (40%).

Bibliography

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FARA, Patricia (2009). *Breve historia de la ciencia*. Ariel. Barcelona

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KUHN, Thomas S. (1962). *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago University Press. Chicago [Trad. cast. KUHN, Thomas S. (2005). *La estructura de las revoluciones científicas*. Fondo de Cultura Económica de México].

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NIETO-GALÁN, Agustí (2011). *Los públicos de la ciencia. Expertos y profanos a través de la historia*. Cátedra.

OLBY, G.N.; CANTOR, J.R.R.; CHRISTIE, M.J.S.; R.C. HODGE (eds.) (1990). *Companion to the History of Modern Science*. Routledge. Londres.

OSLER, Margaret J. (ed.) (2000). *Rethinking the Scientific Revolution*. Cambridge University Press.

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PESTRE, Dominique (2008). *Ciència, diners i política: assaig d'interpretació.* Obrador Edèndum. Santa Coloma de Queralt.

ROSSI, Paolo (1998). *El nacimiento de la ciencia moderna en Europa*. Crítica. Barcelona.

SOLIS, Carlos; SELLÉS, Manuel (2005). *Historia de la Ciencia*. Espasa. Madrid.

WESTFALL, Richard S. (1977). *The Construction of Modern Science*. Cambridge.

Online resource: https://sabersenaccio.iec.cat/

Software

No specific software is required.

Language list

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed

(TE) Theory	1	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed