

Geographical Thought

Code: 101613
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Science, Technology and Humanities	OT	4

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

A commitment to regularly follow class sessions in person and actively participate in them is required. Students should have skills on Catalan language and on Spanish language equal or higher than B2 level. Students should be able to read texts in Catalan, Spanish, English, French and Italian.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Academic, scientific, political and ethical proposal:

The subject consists in the study of:

- the fundamental frameworks of geographical thought from the birth of modern geography to present days;
- epistemology and the history of geography;
- theories, concepts and methods in geography;
- geography as a critical and dissident look at the spatial expression of social, political, economic and cultural reality.

It seeks to assume:

- the critical and social commitment of geography: critical geographies as an instrument of interpretation and transformation of the world;
- the ethical commitment on injustices, imbalances and social and spatial inequalities that capitalism and neoliberalism generate in society and in the contemporary world;
- the political positioning in front of attitudes, principles and spatial initiatives that are given in relation to the territory;
- the social implication in the transformation of the territory, as citizens and as scientists;
- the capacity to generate a critical and proper discourse in front of the territorial reality, and in front of the external and dominant discourses.

Competences

- Analyse questions related to science and technology in society, using basic, essential forms of mathematical and statistical reasoning.
- Analyse the relationships between nature and culture using concepts from anthropology, philosophy and history.

- Develop and communicate orally and in writing the objectives and results of research projects on science, technology and society, using techniques for managing scientific information.

Learning Outcomes

1. Contrasting and comparing relevant geographical data.
2. Critically and rigorously evaluate the contributions of other disciplines regarding land use.
3. Interpret the events of today's world on the basis of knowledge of geographic thought.
4. Obtain, process and transmit geographic and land-use information orally, in writing, graphically and cartographically.

Content

(Mostly) orientative program

- Geography, the social science of places.
- Classical and pre-scientific geography.
- Institutionalization of geography.
- Environmental determinism.
- French regional geography.
- Theoretical-quantitative geography.
- Critical and radical geographies.
- Anarchist geographies.
- Humanistic geography, emotional geographies.
- Geography in the postmodern context.
- Postmodern geographies: redefining the «other» (gender, orientalism, postcolonialism).
- Postmodern geographies: redefining culture, places and landscapes.
- «Alternative» and «anti-system» spatialities: the geographies of *sumak kawsay*, the *common*, the *cooperative*
- Geographies of discourses and of territory.

- Contemporary geography in Catalonia and Spain.

- Geographers and their professional activity.

- Geography and teaching.

- Geography and ideology; situated knowledge; the need for a critical spatial thinking.

- Activism and dissidence; the critical and social commitment of geography.

- Spatial justice and territorial responsibility

- Critical cartographies.

- Critical geopolitics.

- Environmental challenges.

- Urban social movements, squatting, ZTA, the common.

- GMAPT: environment, spatial planning... from a Geography perspective?

The final program of the subject will be distributed during the first class session of the course.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
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Type: Directed			
Practical sessions	8	0.32	1, 4

Theoretical sessions	39	1.56	2
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Type: Supervised			
Creative essay	15	0.6	3, 4
Preparation of activities	10	0.4	1, 4
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Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous activities	75	3	3, 4
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Structure of the course

The presential classes are «theoretical» (exposition by the teacher) and «practical» (readings, debates in forum based on texts).

In the UAB's Virtual Campus there is essential documentation and information for the course, both regarding the organizational aspects of the subject and in relation to the thematic contents of it. It is important to access Moodle often.

Possible teaching-learning strategies developed by the teacher:

- teaching in master classes;
- organization of the forum and debate sessions;
- teaching of practical sessions;
- proposal and guide in mandatory readings;
- tutorials of the essays;
- case development;
- eventually, participation of external speakers.

Activities that, foreseeably, the students will realize:

- unavoidable presence/follow-up to class sessions;
- necessary participation in the forum and debate sessions;
- necessary participation in the practical sessions;
- systematic reading of mandatory texts; presentation of summaries and reviews;
- exercises carried out during class sessions;
- development of a short essay (written, individual, supervised by the teacher);
- preparation and public presentation (oral, in group, tutored by the teacher) of a discussion forum on a topic related to geographical thought;
- a written or oral test.

By imposition, the teaching guide of this course includes the formula of citing some «competences», «hours», «training activities» and «learning outcomes», even though they do not correspond to the teacher's criteria.

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
Individual test	25%	3	0.12	1, 3, 2
Reading summaries; exercises, practices and participation in the classroom	25%	0	0	3, 4

Short creative essay	25%	0	0	1, 4, 2
Thematic forum presentation	25%	0	0	3, 4, 2

Evaluation of theoretical classes:

- *Short creative essay as research initiation.* In due course, the teacher will indicate the thematic orientation of the essay. Individual written work. Extension between 7,000 and 10,000 characters (incl. spaces). Deadline for delivery: to be specified (non-extendable). [The evaluation will assess the appropriate expression, the coherence in the development, the handling of the bibliography, the originality, etc. It accounts for 25% of the final grade].
- *Individual test (exam).* Date: to be determined. [The evaluation will assess the assimilation of knowledge, the ability to analyze, synthesize and interpret. It accounts for 25% of the final grade].

Evaluation of practical classes:

- *Presentation of thematic debate based on proposed readings.* Collective work (oral and written) led by three/four speakers following the schedule established in the first class session. Once their paper has been presented, the speakers will have one week (non-extendable) to deliver it to the professor in written or graphic format by email. [The assessment will assess the preparation -including compulsory tutoring with the teacher-, the realization and oral presentation -in groups- of the debate, correct and appropriate oral expression, bibliography handling, teamwork, graphic presentation and writing of the results. The assessment of this part accounts for 25% of the final grade].
- *Delivery of summaries of the compulsory readings, class participation, exercises and practices.* Individual assessment. Regarding the summaries of the readings, the maximum length is 2,000 characters (including spaces) per text; a minimum of abstract blocks must be delivered; delivery date: during the debate on each block of readings (non-extendable). Date of delivery of the rest of the exercises and practicals: during the face-to-face session in which they are carried out.[The assessment will assess the presence, attitude, participation and involvement in the debate forums and theoretical sessions, the comments and contributions in class and in the debates, the delivery of summaries and practices and the ability to synthesis and capture-abstraction of the main ideas. It accounts for 25% of the final grade].

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. In order to be assessed, it is necessary to have submitted all the assessable parts, to have attended at least 80% of the class sessions and to have actively participated in the class and forum-debate sessions. The non-presentation of any of the assessable parts will result in a «Not assessable» as the final mark. To be able to recover (reassess) a suspended part, you must have presented yourself to all assessable parts. Only the creative essay and the individual test can be recovered (reassessed): in order to pass the subject a minimum grade of 3.5 must be achieved in both the creative essay and the individual test. In the recovery, the overall maximum grade will be a 5. The recovery will not serve, in any case, to «improve the grade». The date for making this recovery will, in principle, be the one proposed by the Faculty.

According to the regulations of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters and of the UAB, «the copying or plagiarism of material, both in the case of assignments and in the case of exams, constitutes a crime that will be sanctioned with a zero in the activity. The reproduction, total or partial, of the work of another person or source is considered "copying". "Plagiarism" is the act of presenting all or part of an author's text as one's own, without citing the sources». Those assessment acts in which there have been irregularities (copying, plagiarism) will not be recoverable. 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. This subject allows the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies exclusively for text correction. Anyway, the student must clearly identify which parts AI has been used and the tools/apps employed. Lack of transparency regarding the use of AI in any assessed activity will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade may be lowered, or the work may even be awarded a zero. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

This subject does not provide for the single evaluation system.

Bibliography

Some general bibliographic cues:

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DÍAZ, Iban, Beltrán ROCA (2021). *El espacio en la teoría social. Una mirada multidisciplinar*. València: Tirant Humanidades.

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FERRETTI, Federico (et al) (2019). *Historical Geographies of Anarchism. Early Critical Geographers and Present-Day Scientific Challenges*. Londres: Routledge.

GIBSON-GRAHAM, J.K.; Jenny CAMERON, Stephen HEALY (2017). *Retomemos la economía. Una guía ética para transformar nuestras comunidades*. Bogotá: Universidad Javeriana [t.o.: *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013].

HARVEY, David (2007). *Espacios del capital. Hacia una geografía crítica*. Madrid: Akal [t.o.: *Spaces of Capital. Towards a Critical Geography*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2001].

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ROUTLEDGE, Paul (2017). *Space Invaders. Radical Geographies of Protest*. Londres: Pluto Press.

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TAMBASSY, Timothy, Marcello TANCA (eds.) (2021). *The Philosophy of Geography*. Cham: Springer.

The Antipode Editorial Collective (ed.) (2019). *Keywords in Radical Geography: Antipode at 50*. Londres: Wiley.

The definitive bibliography will be announced during the first class session of the course. For each theme of the program, the professor will provide a specific bibliography.

Software

Word processor (MS Word), power-point, Internet access.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

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