VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Course Guide
33800 Geography and Environment in Africa

COURSE DATA

Data Subject	
Code	33800
Name	Geography and Environment in Africa
Cycle	Grade
ECTS Credits	6.0
Academic year	2019 - 2020

Study (s)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Faculty of Geography and History	3	First term

Subject-matter

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	619 - Geography and environment in Africa	Obligatory

Coordination

Name	Department
VIRUELA MARTINEZ, RAFAEL	195 - Geography

SUMMARY

The subject *Geography and environment in Africa* studies the environment, the population and economic activities of a continent that is identified with underdevelopment, hunger, poverty, conflict, etc. However, Africa is characterized as territory with large regional differences, with countries, that are highly dependent on a few natural resources and that have a diversified economy; countries which have been integrated into the global economy. The exploitation of their wealth and economic investments from abroad characterize the integration of the continent in the globalization process, with a high environmental cost.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Relationship to other subjects of the same degree

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

Other requirements

The course doesnt present prerequisites. However, students are recommended to review the basic concepts previously studied in following courses: Introduction to Geography and Environment, Introduction to Physical Geography and Introduction to Human Geography, as well as Cartography and GIS courses.

OUTCOMES

1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment

- Have capacity for analysis and synthesis.
- Have oral and written communication skills in one's own language and in a foreign language.
- Be able to work independently.
- Be able to work in interdisciplinary teams.
- Show commitment to the values of gender equality, interculturality, equal opportunities, universal access for people with disabilities, the culture of peace, democratic values and solidarity.
- Show motivation for quality, responsibility and intellectual honesty.
- Learn about regional geographical spaces.
- Learn about geographic information systems.
- Learn about the time and space dimensions in the explanation of social, territorial and environmental processes.
- Be able to relate and synthesise cross-disciplinary territorial information.
- Learn about the diversity of places, regions and locations and their relationships.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Knowledge of African continent’s geographical diversity and its position in the global economy.

2. Assessment of social and economic change in Africa.

3. Evaluation of causes and consequences of Africa’s environmental problems

4. Enhancing group work, critical analysis and oral and written presentation as well as argumentation.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. States and frontiers in Africa

The first agenda item examines the current territorial organization of the African continent, the recent increase in number of States and kilometer border after the decolonization process, geopolitical fractures, the causes of many national and international conflicts ravaging the continent and causing millions of refugees and displaced persons, which exacerbate environmental problems in many border areas.

2. Natural setting and the state of the environment

The subject deals with the study of the environment in which human activities are being developed, the different natural components of geographic space: the structure of the relief, large morfo-structurals units, climate and biomes, fluvial network. Special attention is devoted to the issue water. Resource availability in quantity and quality is one of the most important challenges facing Africa, and its control is cause of conflicts and tensions. Finally, the dramatic environmental changes are analyzed: Deforestation, soil degradation, water pollution, air pollution and the rapid loss of biodiversity, are serious obstacles to development.

3. Population and migration in Africa

This topic analyzes population dynamics, geographical distribution and composition. In Africa demographic and urban growth has been spectacular, and one of the main problems facing society is the inclusion of millions of young people to working life. African population is characterized by high mobility, with important internal and external migration. For many families, the emigration of one of its members is the solution to the subsistence problems.

4. Recent socioeconomic changes

Economic activities in the current globalization process are discussed. Agriculture remains the main economic sector in many countries. The contribution of the manufacturing industry is modest, largely due to poor transport infrastructure. Meanwhile, extractive industry occupies a very prominent place in Africas economic growth. The insertion of Africa into the global economy is based on the export of its natural resources, which attracts a large volume of investment and, in most cases, has a negative environmental impact.

WORKLOAD

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theory classes	30,00	100
Other activities	15,00	100
Classroom practices	15,00	100
Development of group work	15,00	0
Development of individual work	15,00	0
Study and independent work	40,00	0
Readings supplementary material	20,00	0
TOTAL	**150,00**	

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

In class the basic content of each issue will be explained and the lecturer will provide information and recommended reading materials that students ought to read and comment. Active learning, selected text commentary, argumentation and critical thinking will be encouraged in classroom

During individual and group tutorials, lecturer and students will try to solve problems and difficulties arising in the learning process and in the implementation of activities.

EVALUATION

The assessment consists of a written test (65% of the final note), and a drill, practice activities and conferences attendance (remaining 35%).

Students must pass the theory exam in order that the results of the activities are taken into account.

Students who fail the course in the first call, keep notes and practical exercises for the second call.

REFERENCES

Basic

- Azcárate, Blanca, Azcárate, Mª Victoria y Sánchez, José (2009): Grandes espacios geográficos. Subdesarrollo y países emergentes, UNED, Madrid.
- Brunel, Sylvie (2004): LAfrique, Éditions Bréal, Rasny-sous-Bois cedex.
- Clement, Gérard y Jambard, Pierre (2010): LAfrique et le Moyen-Orient, Bréal, Paris.

- Santamaría, Antonio coord.- (2006): África en el horizonte, Los Libros de la Catarata, Madrid.
- Smith, Stephen (2009): Atlas de lAfrique, Autrement, Paris.

Additional

- Aldekoa, Xavier (2014): Océano África. Península, Barcelona.
- Conrad, Joseph (1998). El corazón de las tinieblas. Clásicos para Hoy, México.
- Forbath, Peter (2002) : El río Congo. Descubrimiento, exploración y explotación del río más dramático de la tierra. Fondo de Cultura Económica, México.
- UNEP (2008): AFRICA Atlas of Our Changing Environment, http://www.unep.org/dewa/Africa/AfricaAtlas/ (FR/EN)
- UNEP (2010) : Afrique. Atlas de l'eau (FR/EN). United Nations Environment Programme (Diapositives de lAtles del Medi Ambient http://na.unep.net/atlas/africa/book.php)

ADDENDUM COVID-19

This addendum will only be activated if the health situation requires so and with the prior agreement of the Governing Council

English version is not available