

**COURSE DATA****Data Subject**

Code	33800
Name	Geography and Environment in Africa
Cycle	Grade
ECTS Credits	6.0
Academic year	2020 - 2021

Study (s)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1318 - Grado de Geografía y Medio Ambiente	Faculty of Geography and History	3	First term

Subject-matter

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1318 - Grado de Geografía y Medio Ambiente	619 - Geography and environment in Africa	Obligatory

Coordination

Name	Department
MEMBRADO TENA, JOAN CARLES	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 doesn't 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 - Grado de Geografía y Medio Ambiente

- 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 Africa's 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, M^a 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 IAfrique, 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 l'Atlas 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

33800 Geography and environment in Africa

SEMI-PRESENTIAL TEACHING

1. Contents

The contents initially included in the teaching guide are maintained

2. Workload and time schedule



The activities and their hours of dedication in ECTS credits marked in the original course guide will be kept. If the classrooms capacity according to the sanitary norms allows it, the theoretical and practical class attendance will be 100% (if the capacity couldn't be guaranteed, the class attendance would be reduced). Supplementary activities (weekly hour O: total 15 h.) may require attendance (field trips, seminars) or could be online, and will be specified at the beginning of the term in the Annex to the Course Guide, like the rest of the teaching planning.

If the sanitary situation changes and no access to the University facilities is possible, all teaching activities will be carried out completely online. In this case, the adaptations will be communicated to the students through the Virtual classroom.

3. Teaching Methodology

Theory and practice classes that may be complemented with different types of materials and activities in the Virtual classroom.

Tutorials will be done online (through the UV corporate mail) or face-to-face by prior appointment with the teacher.

If the sanitary situation changes and no access to the University facilities is possible, teaching and tutorials will be carried out completely online. In this case, the adaptations will be communicated to the students through the Virtual classroom.

4. Evaluation

The evaluation criteria established in the Course Guide are kept.

If the University facilities were closed on the dates set in the official calendar for the final exam, the face-to-face exam would be replaced by an online test.

5. Bibliographic references

The recommended bibliography in the Course Guide is kept. If the sanitary situation changes and the access to the recommended bibliography is not possible, it will be replaced by materials accessible online.