

67920 - Techniques for Reading and Understanding History. Vestiges of the Past

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2023/24

Subject: 67920 - Techniques for Reading and Understanding History. Vestiges of the Past

Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Degree: 528 - Master's in Research and Advanced Studies in History

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 1

Semester: First semester

Subject type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

The objective of this subject is to offer a series of basic tools with which to know and correctly interpret historical texts and documents of all kinds, to provide the basis for a better understanding and explanation of certain historical phenomena from a transversal perspective, as well as to investigate the use of the different utilities, tools and techniques that contribute to a better explanation of the ideas and results obtained in the research process.

These approaches and objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/>), so that the acquisition of the learning results of the subject provides the training and competence that contribute to some extent to their achievement, specifically the following: 4: Quality education; 5: Gender equality; 10: Reducing inequalities; 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions; 17: Partnerships to achieve the goals.

2. Learning results

Upon completion of this subject, the student will be able to:

Demonstrate skills to adapt to new situations and solve problems within multidisciplinary historical contexts through the application of methods and techniques as well as the use of written sources and materials.

Rigorously evaluate historiographical sources and documents and handle techniques and methods of advanced studies and research in history in a self-directed or autonomous way.

Define and apply ethical criteria for the practice of historical research in the different periods using the diverse vestiges of the past.

Define original research topics based on written sources and material remains that contribute to interdisciplinary knowledge and historiographic debate.

Develop and prepare for presentation and discussion accurate works that integrate the complexity of the methods and techniques used in the analysis of written and material sources.

3. Syllabus

1. Social utility of history. Professional ethics of the historian/archaeologist.
2. Choice of the research topic. Search of the bibliography and writing on the state of the question. The writing of the research paper. Citation. Presentation.
3. Search and selection of sources, and storage of information: databases in historical research. The prosopographic method.
4. Graphic representation of historical events (graphs, tables, family trees, etc.). Historical cartography.
5. Ancient texts and objects. Two parallel and complementary sources. Archaeology: at the service of History.
6. Landscape as a historical source. Archaeological traces in the territory. The construction of the current landscape.
7. The objects of religious, daily life and their valuation and use as an ideological instrument, as a historical source.
8. Other historical sources. The impact of social crises on everyday objects and life, as well as on economic and cultural activities.

4. Academic activities

Theoretical classes: lectures, theoretical presentations, debates and various presentations.

Study and personal work: readings, critical reviews and preparation of presentations.

Practice: case studies, problem solving, work with primary and secondary sources, text commentaries, audiovisual commentaries and other work documents.

Tutorials: problem and doubt solving, follow-up of learning.

Assessment tests: Written tests and oral presentations

5. Assessment system

FIRST CALL

a) Continuous assessment system

Written tests and oral presentations (50%)

Participation in class discussions and debates (20%)

Practical exercises according to the program content (30%)

Assessment criteria: clarity, coherence and originality in the approach and exposition, as well as the use of critical contributions based on a complete bibliographic documentation. Active participation in class, clarity, coherence and ability to express their approaches and critical comments will be valued. Continuous assessment will be confirmed by submitting the corresponding summaries or reports on debates and discussions. The cataloguing and analysis of archaeological materials and historical documentation will be taken into account.

b) Global assessment test (on the date established in the academic calendar)

Essay on a topic or work proposed in class and tutored by the teacher of the subject. Assessment criteria: clarity, coherence and originality in the approach and exposition, as well as the use of critical contributions based on a complete bibliographic documentation. The length of the essay will be about 12-15 pages and will be submitted on the date set in the academic calendar for this global assessment test (70%).

Development of a theoretical-practical exercise on the contents of the syllabus and those worked throughout the term in classes and seminars (30%).

Evaluation criteria: ability to summarise, conceptual accuracy and writing skills. Writing must be correct.

SECOND CALL

Global assessment test and evaluation criteria: same as in the first call.