

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 33518**Name:** Social history and contemporary politics**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 6**Academic year:** 2026-27**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1311 - Degree in Social Work	Facultat de Ciències Socials	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1311 - Degree in Social Work	History	BASIC

COORDINATION

MARTI BATALLER AURELIO

SUMMARY

Contemporary History is a basic formation subject of the first academic year. It is one of the subjects common to all the degrees of the Faculty of Social Sciences. This allows students to choose from different social sciences degrees.

This subject is aimed at providing students with basic knowledge on contemporary history, especially that of the 20th century and its consequences, in order to understand the present world. Besides, it aims at stimulating general skills that are pertinent to social sciences students and particular skills obtained through the study of History.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS



COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1311 - Degree in Social Work

Demonstrate critical and self-critical thinking in the field of the degree programme, considering aspects such as professional ethics, moral values and the social implications of the different activities carried out.

Demonstrate professional competence in the practice of social work.

Identify the disciplinary knowledge necessary for the analysis of contemporary society, its structure and dynamics, including the complexity of social phenomena, adopting a multidisciplinary perspective.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Contemporary History, with particular emphasis on Europe

The Second Industrial Revolution

Raw materials, energy sources and technological innovations. The new organisation of labour and production and its economic and social consequences. Mass production and mass consumption. The phenomena of business concentration and the new developments in the global market.

2. Colonialism and Imperialism in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Conceptual issues. Historical phases of colonialism and imperialism. Interpretations of imperialism. An overview of the colonial empires from 1880 until their disappearance.

3. The First World War

The significance of the First World War in Contemporary History. Causes of the war. The course of the war. Innovative features of the conflict. Consequences of the First World War.

4. Communism and Fascism in Europe

The Russian Revolution and the construction of Soviet totalitarianism. The Fascist Revolutions and the construction of totalitarianism in Italy and Germany. Fundamental characteristics of communist regimes. Fundamental characteristics of fascist regimes.



5. The Second World War and the Holocaust

Causes of the war. The course and consequences of the war. The historical significance of the Holocaust. Europe and the world after the war: a general overview.

6. The Cold War

The outbreak and stages of the Cold War. The Cold War in its global arenas and crises. The end of the Cold War. International relations after the Cold War.

7. Europe: From the European Economic Community to the European Union

The idea of a community of European states as a consequence of the European "civil wars" of the twentieth century. Stages in the construction of a European community. The European Union: enlargements, ambitions and realities.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	90,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

EVALUATION

1. Exam. Open-ended written examination designed to assess written communication skills, the organisation of ideas, the ability to apply knowledge, analytical competence, and creativity. This



examination accounts for **70% of the final grade**.

2. Continuous assessment of students' work throughout the course, and/or attendance and/or participation in face-to-face teaching sessions, tutorials, and/or complementary learning activities. This component accounts for **30% of the final grade**. This compulsory coursework element is **not eligible for resit assessment during the second examination period**. Students must achieve a minimum mark of **5 out of 10 in the written examination** in order for the mark awarded for the compulsory coursework to be included in the final grade.

It should be noted that:

Plagiarism is defined as "the dishonest act of substantially copying the work of others and presenting it as one's own" (Reducindo et al., 2017, p. 300). Similarly, cyberplagiarism "occurs when a piece of work is presented as the result of personal effort when, in fact, it consists wholly or partially of information copied from another author without any form of acknowledgement or bibliographical reference. This most commonly occurs with online texts [...]" (Sarrià and De Francisco, 2018, p. 4).

Avoiding such practices requires the responsible and ethical use of information in academic work. Among the various standards recognised by the academic community, the **APA Publication Manual (7th Edition)** constitutes an essential framework for ensuring academic integrity, as will be specified in the continuous assessment tasks submitted throughout the semester.

In light of the above, from the second semester of the first year onwards, particular attention will be paid across all modules to compliance with the principles of academic integrity and respect for the intellectual property rights of others. Within the framework of continuous assessment, students will be expected to demonstrate appropriate academic practice through the correct use of citation conventions and the proper presentation of scholarly work.

REFERENCES

Andrade, J. (2026). El cielo y las ruinas. Guerra, fascismo y revolución en Europa (de 1914 a la guerra de España). Akal.

Casassas, J. (2005). La construcción del presente. El mundo desde 1848 hasta nuestros días. Ariel.

Fontana, J. (2011). El siglo de la revolución: una historia del mundo desde 1914. Pasado y Presente.

Fuentes, J. F. i La Parra, E. (2001). Historia Universal del siglo XX: de la Primera Guerra Mundial al ataque a las Torres Gemelas. Síntesis.

Hobsbawm, E. (2000). Historia del Siglo XX, 1914-1991. Crítica.

Villares, R. i Bahamonde, Á. (2001). El Mundo Contemporáneo. Siglos XIX y XX. Taurus.



- Arendt, H. (2006). Eichmann en Jerusalem. Debolsillo.
- Applebaum, A. (2005). Gulag. Historia de los campos de concentración soviéticos. Debate.
- Duby, G. i Perrot, M. (2000). Historia de las mujeres en Occidente. El siglo XX. Taurus.
- Ferguson, N. (2005). El Imperio Británico. Debate.
- Figes, O. (2000). La Revolución Rusa, 1891-1924. Edhasa.
- Gentile, E. (2005). El Fascismo. Historia e Interpretación. Alianza Editorial.
- Kershaw, I. (2019). Descenso a los infiernos. Europa 1914-1945. Crítica.
- Kershaw, I. (2019). Ascenso y crisis. Europa 1950-2017: un camino incierto. Crítica.
- Mcmahon, R. (2009). La Guerra Fría. Alianza Editorial.
- Pipes, R. (2002). Historia del Comunismo. Mondadori.
- Reducindo, I., Rivera, L. R., Rivera, J., Olvera, M. A. (2017). Integración de plataforma LMS y algoritmo de código abierto para detección y prevención de plagio en Educación Superior. Revista General de Información y Documentación 27 (2), 299-315. <https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/RGID/issue/view/3197>
- Rees, L. (2007). Auschwitz. Los Nazis y la "Solución Final". Booket.
- Sarriá, J. F. y De Francisco, J. C. (2018). Ciberplagio académico: un tema de importancia. Lite ¡A tu alcance!, 68, 4-12. <https://es.calameo.com/read/00557874303bfa3c48182>
- Traverso, E. (2009). A sangre y fuego. De la guerra civil europea (1914-1945). PUV
- Piketty, Th. (2021). Una breu història de la igualtat. Edicions 62.
- Wesseling, H. (2009). Divide y vencerás: El Reparto de África. Península.