



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 34421
Name: Contemporary political and social history
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Facultat de Ciències Socials	1	Second quarter
1925 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Dret	1	
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Facultat de Dret	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1310 - Degree in Sociology	History	BASIC
1925 - Double Degree Prog. Sociology-Political and Public Administration Sciences	Year 1 compulsory subjects	COMPULSORY
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Asignaturas obligatorias de primer curso	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

MARTI BATALLER AURELIO

IBAÑEZ DOMINGO MELANIE

SUMMARY

Contemporary Political and Social History is a Basic Formation subject, of transversal nature, of the first year for all of the degrees of the Faculty of Social Sciences. It has a general formative profile as part of the curriculum of the social sciences students and gives them a better chance to opt for various degrees given that they must take a number of common subjects.

From a sociological approach, the subject aims to teach the students about the historical background of some of the most relevant sociological phenomena. This way they will be able to understand some of the important relationships between history and social phenomena which have led to sociological analysis up to now.



The subject is aimed at providing students with enough knowledge on basic topics about contemporary history (especially those of the 20th century) as well as their consequences in order to understand some of the most relevant social questions of present day.

Students are encouraged to acquire general competences, relevant for a social sciences student, especially those which can be acquired through the study of History, such as the sense of time, duration and change as indispensable vectors for the understanding of social processes and phenomena.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

No enrolment restrictions have been specified.

OTHER TYPE OF PRERQUISITES

Students must have basic knowledge on relevant and contemporary historical events as well as general knowledge of its chronology. Prior knowledge of basic geography is also advisable.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Analyse social phenomena adopting a multidisciplinary perspective (sociological, psychosocial, economic, political, historical and anthropological).

Clearly communicate theories, problems and proposals of a sociological nature, both orally and in writing, using new information and communication technologies.

Know the institutions of the welfare society that contribute to safeguarding social rights.

Learn independently and develop initiative in the field of sociology.

Respect and promote the principles of fundamental rights, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, democratic values and sustainability.

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.



Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Understand the political-economic organisation and the historical evolution of contemporary societies at the global and local level, and their relationship with social dynamics and processes.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. The Second Industrial Revolution.

Raw materials, energy sources and technological innovations. The new labour organization and its social and economical consequences. Mass production and mass consumption.

2. Colonialism and Imperialism in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Concepts. Historical stages of colonialism and imperialism. Interpretations of Imperialism. The decolonization.

3. The First World War

Importance of the First World War in contemporary History. Causes of the War. Novel features of the War. Consequences of the First World War.

4. Communism and Fascism in Europe.

The Russian Revolution. Fascism in Italy and Germany. Basic characteristics of communist regimes. Basic characteristics of fascist regimes.

5. The Second World War and the Holocaust.

Causes of the War. Development and consequences of the War. Europe and the world after the War, a general approach.

Outbreak and stages of the Cold War. The Cold War in its scenarios and world crisis. End of the Cold War.



6. The Cold War.

International relations after the Cold War.

7. Europe in the Economic Community and the European Union.

Stages in the construction of a European community. The European Union: memberships, ambitions and realities. Socioeconomic transformations, social movements and civil rights.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

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

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	5,00
Individual or group project	20,00
Independent study and work	30,00
Preparation of lessons	15,00
Preparation for assessment activities	15,00
Resolution of case studies	5,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

1. Participative lecture.
2. Oral presentations by the students.
3. Problem solving.
4. Discussions.
5. Research of documentary and statistical data.
6. Discussion sessions and group analysis based on materials.



7. Reading, synthesis, analysis and criticism of texts.
8. Exercises.
9. Attendance and active participation in workshops, seminars and conferences.
10. Individual and group tutorials.

EVALUATION

- 1) Written exam, in which both the exposure of theoretical content acquired their practical application will be assessed. Open-ended questions. Individual, in-person exam (60%).
- 2) Theoretical-practical activities (30%).
- 3) Assessment of regular attendance and active participation of the students in the classroom sessions, tutorials and complementary activities (10%).
- 4) In order to pass the course it is necessary to achieve at least a grade of 5 out of 10 in the individual written exam.
- 5) Second Call Examination: part 2 and 3 will be valued (see the Annex of each group)
- 6) Grammar and spelling problems will score negatively. Their accumulation may lead to a failing grade in the course.
- 7) Plagiarism or misuse of artificial intelligence tools may be sanctioned in accordance with the article 15 of the evaluation and qualification regulations of the University of Valencia.

REFERENCES

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- Casanova, Julián (2011). Europa contra Europa (1914-1945). Barcelona. Crítica



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- Duby, Georges y Perrot, Michelle. (2000). Historia de las mujeres en Occidente. El siglo XX. Madrid. Taurus.
- Judt, Tony (2006). Postguerra: una historia de Europa desde 1945. Madrid. Taurus
- Lowe, Keith (2012). Continente salvaje: Europa después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Galaxia Gutenberg.
- Mazower, Mark (2017). La Europa Negra. València. Barlin Libros.
- Ortega, Teresa y Moreno, Mónica (2023). Historia de las mujeres y del feminismo desde 1945: nuevos debates, nuevos espacios, nuevas identidades. Madrid. Síntesis.
- Villares, Ramón y Bahamonde Ángel (2009). El Mundo Contemporáneo. Siglos XIX y XX. Madrid. Taurus
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- Fuentes, Juan Francisco y La Parra, Emilio (2001). Historia Universal del siglo XX: de la Primera Guerra Mundial al ataque a las Torres Gemelas. Síntesis.