TEACHING GUIDE FOR:
30020 - Information Research in Social Sciences

Subject identification

Lecturer: Rubén Lluc Comas Forgas
Credits: 6 ECTS (total 150 hours)
Teaching language: ENGLISH
Teaching period and schedule: Lectures will take place in the Room GCAIGCA (Computer Lab) placed at the Building Guillem Cifre de Colonya every **Monday from 15:00 to 17:00 hours**, starting October the 1st 2018 and finishing January the 14th 2019.
Practical workshops will take place in the Room GCAIGCA (Computer Lab) placed at the Building Guillem Cifre de Colonya every **Monday from 17:00 to 19:00 hours**, starting October the 8th 2018 and finishing December the 3rd 2018.

Contextualization

The rapid and spectacular development of information and communication technologies (ICT) has contributed to a complex and saturated informational environment. There is so much information available on any subject that is virtually impossible to know and see it in its entirety. The existence of this new information ecosystem, qualitatively and quantitatively complex, justifies the appropriateness of this course aimed at students acquisition of capacities and skills that a few years ago were superfluous. This is even more significant if you consider that ICTs have become the main source of information for academic purposes amongst undergraduate and postgraduate students (Comas, Sureda, Pastor & Morey, 2011[1]). To succeed in this new informational environment are no longer sufficient basic skills which for centuries have allowed cultural integration in the world: know how to read, write and count.

Currently our students require another literacy classified as "informational" and which refers to "knowing when and why you need information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner" (The Library and Information Association, 2016[2]).

Information literacy means to achieve a series of competences among which should be remarked:

1. Be able to determine the nature and level of need for information
2. Locate and access the required information efficiently
3. Evaluate information and its sources critically
4. Use information effectively. This use involves to efficiently organize information localized, cite and reference documents used properly
5. Access and use information ethically and legally

Requirements

There are no specific requirements to attend/follow this course, though good command of English is advisable. However, the course is designed to help students improving their English skills.
It is recommendable some basic computer abilities: word-processing, internet searching, text editing, etc.

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[1] Comas, R., Sureda, J., Pastor, M., & Morey, M. (2011). La búsqueda de información con fines académicos entre el alumnado universitario. *Revista española de documentación científica, 34*(1), 44-64.
[2] The Library and Information Association. (2016). *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education.* Retrieved from http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/standards/standards.pdf

Skills

Specific
• Demonstrate knowledge of information, its organization, and management of sources for information in various social sciences subject areas
• Identify attributes of information and organizational schemes as means of contextualizing data and information
• Effectively identify, access, retrieve, and analyze information in various social sciences subject areas
• Be able to evaluate information sources and content
• Use scientific information and evidences for decision making and problem solving during the university trajectory and in the future professional career
• Define, recognize and avoid plagiarism and correctly cite resources using APA style

Generic
• Competence to communicate in English
• Teamwork and collaboration skills
• Competence to communicate information, ideas, problems, and solutions to an audience, both specialized and non-specialized

Content

Module 1. Introduction
- Unit 1. Fundaments of academic writing and communication
- Unit 2. The process of preparing an academic essay/activity: determining your information needs

Module 2. Identification and location of bibliography
- Unit 3. The library catalog of the UIB
- Unit 4. The major bibliographic databases on social sciences
- Unit 5. Identify and locate academic journal articles
- Unit 6. Institutional repositories
- Unit 7. Encyclopedias, statistics databases
- Unit 8. Search engines and directories
- Unit 9. Content change detection and notification services to keep you updated

Module 3. Evaluation of material located
- 10. Evaluation of Information

Module 4. Information organization
- Unit 11. The management of the bibliography and resources

Module 5. Ethical, legal and responsible use of information
- Unit 12. Avoidance of plagiarism and academic honesty
- Unit 13. Cite correctly the sources used in academic activities. Techniques and resources for making academic cites and references

Teaching methodology

In-work class activities

Modality	Name	Type Group.	Description
Lecture classes	Lectures and participation	Large group	The main purpose of the lectures is to transmit a body

Modality	Name	Type Group.	Description
			of information to the students by the lecturer. This methodology aims to provide an overview of a particular subject, enabling the opportunity to explain, clarify and introduce relevant content that combined with a set of class activities will enable students acquiring the course competencies and knowledge. Students will be expected to participate actively and critically in the discussions generated.
Practical workshops	Practical activities	Small group	These sessions will be based on cooperative learning methodology, whereby students work in small groups collaborating in learning activities with common goals. Cooperative learning is characterized by active and experiential methodology within an interactionist model of teaching and learning, where the teacher has the role of a mediator in the generation of knowledge and the development of social skills.

Distance education work activities

Modality	Name	Type Group.	Description
Homework	Individual and group learning activities	Individual and small group	A set of learning activities will be designed aimed at improving students' knowledge and competencies on the subjects/themes studied during the course. Some of these activities will be individual (i.e. course general assignment, readings and text commentaries, etc.) and others will be group activities. All these activities and the material necessary to perform them will be accessible through Campus Extens online learning platform.
Individual self–study	Self–study	Individual and small group	Based on the lecturer's explanation of the different content units in the lecture classes, the material available through the online learning platform Campus Extens, the practical sessions

			and workshops developed, students will explore the subject contents through individual study and reflection on them.

Specific risks and protective measures: The learning activities of this course do not entail specific risks for the health and safety of students and, therefore, do not need special protection measures.

Workload estimate

Modality	Name	Hours	ECTS	%
Lecture classes	Lectures and participation	30	1,2	20%
Practical workshops	Practical activities	15	0,6	10%
Homework	Individual and group learning activities	30	1,2	20%
Individual self–study and essay writing	Self–study	75	3	50%

Student learning assessment

Lecture classes: Active participation in the lecture classes will count 10% of the final qualification (10 points)

Practical workshops: Assisting and participating in the workshops will count 20% of the final qualification (20 points)

Essay: A final essay of 3500 words will be hand in by students and will count 50% of the final qualification (50 points)

Preparation and handing in individual and group learning activities: Will count 20% of the final qualification (20 points)

Resources, bibliography and additional documentation

All necessary resources (articles, books, chapters, reports, videos, podcasts, etc.) will be provided by the lecturer through the online learning platform Campus Extens.

Lecturers' office hours

Office/Location	Week day/s	Office hours	Contact details
Building Beatriu de Pinós Office number 20	Monday Wednesday	08:00-09:00 12:30-13:30	Telephone: 971172426 E-mail: rubencomas@uib.es