# uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

## National parks and other protected areas

Academic Year: (2019 / 2020) Review date: 06-06-2019

Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: History, Geography and Art Department

Coordinating teacher: MANUEL VALDES, CARLOS

Type: Electives ECTS Credits: 3.0

Year: 1 Semester: 1

#### **OBJECTIVES**

## **COMPETENCES**

Possess and understand knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity to be original in the development and / or application of ideas, often in a research context.

Students should be able to apply the acquired knowledge and problem-solving skills in new or unfamiliar environments, within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their area of study.

That students are able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of making judgments from information that, incomplete or limited, includes reflections on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments.

That the students know how to communicate their conclusions and the latest knowledge and reasons that support them to specialized and non-specialized audiences in a clear and unambiguous way.

That the students possess the learning abilities that allow them to continue studying.

Analyze the different indicators that allow to know the relevance of Spanish tourism in the world.

Interpret ways to promote the growth of national, regional and local tourism, based on cultural and natural resources.

That the students interpret the keys of the territorial balance, and the cultural integration of the marginalized zones.

Identify the tourism fabric as the integration of natural and cultural goods, establishing relationships of commitment and balance between both realities.

Apply the ability to work as a team in themes related to cultural and natural heritage.

Manage adequately the use of innovative concepts linked to tourism management.

Define a methodology of work, from the field work to the interpretation and publication of results in the field of tourism resource management.

To evaluate the strategic role of tourism for the economic development of the peoples and the valorization and active conservation of natural and cultural resources.

Analyze the sources of information for the analysis of spaces and tourist activities.

Promote spaces for different types of tourism and tourists, with particular emphasis on cultural and environmental aspects through discovery and integration.

Train to interpret social and cultural diversity.

Identify specific tools to develop tourism products and activities based on environmental and cultural resources without jeopardizing the conservation of resources and the sustainability of tourism.

To value the critical spirit for a permanent improvement of the tourist product, taking the initiative in

the renewal and permanent update of the offers.

Apply the economic, legal, social and political variables involved in Tourism, for the promotion of goods of cultural and natural interest.

Decide on the planning of tourist areas.

Evaluate appropriate resources to promote a space or a particular cultural asset.

Analyze states of conservation and quality of cultural assets linked to the tourism world

Demonstrate knowledge in tourism.

Identify problems and potentialities of tourism resources and areas.

Write diagnoses and strategies for territories and tourist destinations.

### **RESULT OF LEARNING**

This subject will provide the students with the necessary knowledge to value the resources of a territory from a tourist perspective. Once they have completed their studies, they must be able to recognize the territory, detect their tourism potential, and design tools for locating, planning, managing, communicating and disseminating natural resources through proposals for different cultural and natural tourism products.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME**

This subject wants to show the importance of national parks, and by extension the protected natural spaces, in territorial policies and, more specifically, in their tourist dimension. The exceptional and often testimonial values ¿¿that surround these areas have favored its transformation, especially during the last century, in areas frequented by diverse visitors.

The protection figures of the National Parks are emblems of all the natural spaces declared in the World and in Spain, where there are fifteen. The diachronic vision of how National Parks have advanced, the attraction they have been gaining from visitors and tourists, is one of the biggest surprises for the economic maintenance of these spaces, contributing to the conservation of our natural heritage. As a counterpart, the management of this type of natural spaces must take into account the impact that can be derived from the influx of visitors.

## Program:

- 1. Introduction and Concepts
- 2. Natural space and human activity. Evolution in their relationships and conceptual transformations.
- 3. Protection of nature and territory.
- 4. The origin of the National Parks and their further development.
- 5. National Parks in the world. National Parks and protected natural areas in Spain.
- 6. The multiple component of the concept "national park": protection, symbol and economic benefit.
- 7. Transformations in the management and conception of National Parks and protected natural areas.
- 8. Linkages between nature and tourism.
- 9. Linkages between tourism management and nature management.
- 10. Main conflicts in the tourist use of protected natural areas.
- 11. The concept of carrying capacity and its application in protected natural areas.
- 12. Future challenges in the management of tourism in protected areas.

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

# **TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

The course will be developed in face-to-face sessions and in activities outside the classroom. The classroom classes have an essentially theoretical meaning, although their content will be combined with practical activities, through the approach and debate on problems related to the subject and through the analysis of specific cases. Both issues related to the Spanish case and to international situations will be addressed. Theoretical sessions will be supported by computer and audiovisual media, in which the main concepts of the subject are developed and the bibliography is provided to complement the students' learning.

Students should carry out critical reading of texts: press articles, reports, manuals and academic

articles, either for later discussion in class, or to broaden and consolidate the knowledge of the subject.

During the theoretical sessions there will also be exhibitions and discussions, under the moderation of the teacher, topics related to the content of the subject, as well as practical cases

It is expected to make some exit to know firsthand the reality of a nearby national park (P.N. de la Sierra de Guadarrama).

A system of tutorials will be established to clarify any type of doubts about the operation of the subject as on the main contents.

There will be some group and individual activities to investigate and solve problems related to practical cases.

### ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Class participation: 10% Individual work: 40% Group work: 30% Final exam: 20%

% end-of-term-examination: 20 % of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): 80

### **BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Butler, R.W.; Boyd, S.W. Tourism and National Parks: issues and implications, CAB, 2000
- Eagles, Paul F.J. Tourism in national parks and protected areas: planning and management, CABI, 2002
- Frost, W.; Hall, C.M. Tourism and National Parks. International perspectives on development, histories and change, Routledge, 2009