University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Basics of historical statistic and demographics, PG_00167981						
Field of study	Sightseeing and Historical Tourism						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2027/2028		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	3		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	5		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Radosław Kubus				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		4.0		20.0	54
Subject objectives	To acquaint students with the practical dimension of social quantitative research. To provide a basis for critical reflection on the usefulness of research tools and the data obtained from their application						

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[KiTHL3_W04] Knows the basic research methods and tools of a historian's scientific workshop, is able to analyze and interpret historical sources and other products of civilization useful for learning about a given historical epoch	Students will be acquaint with basic concepts and statistical methods used in historical research, such as data analysis, sampling, correlation, extrapolation and interpolation.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[KiTHL3_K01] Critically evaluates the knowledge possessed, demonstrates readiness to constantly expand it and seek expert opinions in the event of difficulties with solving the problem on their own	The student is acquaint with the main problems and challenges of statistical and demographic research in history, such as lack of complete data, changes in political boundaries, differences in census methodology in different historical periods. At the same time, he/she is able to solve methodological problems effectively thanks to his/her knowledge of the titles of leading journals, the professional literature on the subject and familiarisation with the names and achievements of the most important researchers from the country and the world involved in quantitative research in history.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[KiTHL3_U01] Is able to correctly select sources and correctly apply research methods appropriate to the historian's research workshop	The student has an in-depth knowledge of the methods and problems of research in statistics and historical demography and knows how to apply these methods in historical analysis.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

Sources for statistical-historical research. Difficulties and benefits of using statistical sources in history. Statistical estimation; Sources of demographic statistics from the 16th to the early 19th century (state censuses, treasury sources, church censuses); Preferences in the choice of statistical methods. Development of statistical material; Measures of central tendency classical and positional averages; Measures of dispersion and measures of asymmetry; Types of chronological series; Absolute and relative growth, indices of dynamics; Methods of studying the state and natural movement of the population (population structure by sex, age and marital status, family reconstruction method); Population relations (population density, urbanisation process, natural population movement).

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Presentation	51.0%	10.0%
Activity during the classes	51.0%	10.0%
Test	51.0%	80.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

Introduction to Old Polish demography, IH PAN, Warsaw 1976;Basics of statistics. Textbook for humanists, Oficyna Wydawnicza "Mówią Wieki", Warsaw 2005;Demography of the pre-partition Republic of Poland, DiG, Warsaw 2009.

	Supplementary literature	Methodology of History, PWN, Warsaw 1984; Problems and Methods of Economic History, PWN, Warsaw 1983; Przemiany demograficzne w Gdansku w latach 16011846 w swietle tabel ruchu naturalnego, UG, Gdansk 1995; Changes in demographic structures in Toruń in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Adam Marszałek, Toruń 2012; Family in XVIII-century Warsaw, IHF UW, Białystok 1991.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Point out the dangers of using past state censuses in statistical research. Outline the difficulties arising from the use of statistical sources. Characterize the information contained in old-Polish metric books of baptisms, weddings and funerals, and suggest the formulation of research problems which can be undertaken on the basis of this type of source.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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