GET TO KNOW YOUR NATURAL HERITAGE THROUGH NATURAL PARKS: TRAINED, PROACTIVE AND PARTICIPATORY CITIZENSHIP BY MEANS OF BLENDED LEARNING

INTRODUCTION

- A subject included in UPUA's Senior Diploma which has been taught since 2008.
- It develops contents oriented to becoming familiar with the nine Natural Parks created in the Alicante province until 2017, and analyses their...
- **physical aspects**: location, boundaries and extension, geology, hydrology and climate;
- **biological aspects**: study of each park's most significant flora and fauna, along with the main underwater biological communities in the case of coastal parks; and
- **human aspects**: history of human beings' presence in the park and/or its environment; traditional activities which have been performed in the natural space; the legislation created to manage and protect the park; the services that it has available; and the routes designed to explore it.

SUMMARY

Lifelong Education in the context of Older Adult University Programmes (OAUPs) appears as a strategic social responsibility in the spheres of education, research, social inclusion and intergenerational solidarity. UPUA's Senior Diploma develops its training in five areas of knowledge.

'Experimental and Environmental Sciences' is one of the 'tricky' areas when it comes to attracting students (due to the perception of difficulty associated with such disciplines). This poses a challenge for the design of appealing, dynamic proposals through blended learning.

Theory and practice, together with multimedia systems and fieldwork, have obtained very good results when it comes to catching students' attention.

To such teaching and learning success is added the interest awakened amongst students to know the closest environment from another perspective and using an essentially practical methodology.

It involves and encourages active, participatory and responsible citizenship with regard to the territory and the environment.

METHODOLOGY

Addressed to over-50s

- **THEORETICAL CONTENTS** taught in the classroom and available at UACloud
- **Physical aspects**: location; boundaries and extension; geology; hydrology; climate.
- **Biological aspects**: flora; fauna; the marine environment.
- **Human aspects**: historical evolution; traditional activities; creation of the Natural Park.
- **Self-produced AUDIOVISUAL DOCUMENTARIES**: 3 ‘audiovisuals’ about each one of the 9 parks.
- **FIELD TRIPS**: 2 to each one of the parks with practical activities.

CONCLUSIONS

- Highly-valued in-the-classroom and blended training.
- **Field practices** that help to acquire a direct knowledge both of the parks themselves and of their management.
- **Physical activity and socialisation**: long walks are carried out to reach spots of great interest, and debates take place.
- **Subject structure and methodology**: highly positive assessment.

AIMS

- Active, participatory training
- Knowledge of nature and the environment
- Enhancement and enjoyment of natural heritage

OUTCOMES

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https://web.ua.es/es/upua/estudios/fichas-de-areas-tematicas-de-conocimiento/ciencias-experimentales/ficha-informativa-de-las-disciplinas.html