



Curriculum Rombase Pedagogics

Course on Roma-specific subjects in two modules

General Information

Target Group

This course is generally designed for adults, mainly for occupational groups that deal with Roma or work as multipliers and mediators. (Roma representatives, teachers, social workers, police officers, etc.).

Course Content and Structure

The content of this course is based on the headwords in the Rombase, an illustrated online database.

Thanks to the structure of modules, this course can give both a survey of Roma-specific subjects (General Introductory Module) and a deeper knowledge (Extension Module) of the individual topics. The Extension Module is flexible in its choice of focus: according to interest and relevance (one or more) topics can be chosen and dealt with in detail.

The Introductory Module takes two days. The lecture is complemented by illustrative material (listening examples, film excerpts, language games etc. taken primarily from the Collection of Material). Apart from getting factual information, the participants shall get familiar with Rombase.

The length of the Extension Module is 1 – 2 days, and it builds on the Introductory Module, but is not presented as a single module. Here, the particular interests of the participants are taken into account. The Extension Module also uses illustrative material on the individual thematic foci.

Methods and Didactics

The content is imparted mainly by oral lecture. In it, theoretical subjects (e.g. history, language) alternate with subjects that are more easily accessible for the participants (Roma names, traditional ceremonies & customs).

Searching Rombase and working out lesson and project plans will be done in teamwork. The use of illustrative material should help to facilitate access to the individual topics and activate not only the cognitive but also the emotional level. The material needed can to a great part be found in the Collection of Material.

A handbook which gives a survey of the course's contents for home reading accompanies the course; it also includes a description of the material in the Collection of Material as well as Ideas for Using Roma-Related Topics in Class.

Goals

- passing on knowledge about the Roma; a better understanding of history and culture of the Roma shall help to accept the "other"
- showing how society deals with the Roma (and other minorities), focusing on the historical as well as on the present-day situation
- questioning common stereotypes and clichés
- becoming aware of the necessity of an own, reflected opinion and personal commitment
- a positive access to cultural diversity and, as a consequence, living together with less conflicts - also with other minorities

Entire Course Content

History of the Roma

- From India to Europe
- Modern Times (until 1945)
- Holocaust
- 1945 up to the Present

Names and Terminology

- proper names and terms used by Non-Roma
- names for Non-Roma
- names of Roma groups

Current Situation

- situation of the Roma in Austria
- Roma in Europe
- emancipation and self-organization
- recognition as ethnic group
- racism and Human Rights
- education and labor market

Sociology and Ethnology

- stereotypes & folklorism
- family- and social structure
- professions now and then
- home & food
- traditional celebrations & customs
- beliefs & taboos

Music

- Roma music in general
- music as profession
- musical styles: from dance tunes to Rompop

Language

- origin of *Romani* and linguistic affiliation
- terms for and classification of *Roma* varieties
- general characteristics of *Romani*
- lexicon (inherited lexicon & borrowings, word formation)
- sound system
- grammar
- socio-linguistic situation of Austrian varieties of *Romani*

Roma personalities

- personalities in the fine arts, literature, music etc.

ROMBASE

- introduction to Rombase
- working with Rombase

Use in Class

- discussion and detailed elaboration of the suggestions in the handbook
- looking through the Collection of Material
- developing new lesson and project plans
- help for own research

Introductory Module

History

survey of origin and migration of the Roma; arrival in Europe; begin of exclusion, persecution and slavery up to World War II; Roma in the Holocaust and dealings with the Roma after 1945; present-day situation in European countries
Length: 2 units

Names and Terminology

origin and problematic nature of terminology used by Non-Roma, like "Zigeuner", "Gypsy" etc; names for Non-Roma; terminology used by the Roma themselves
Length: 1 unit

Current Situation

survey of the situation of the Roma in Austria; present-day developments in Austria; situation of the Roma in other European countries
Length: 2 units

Sociology and Ethnology

prejudices and stereotypes and their background; role of the family in traditional Roma cultures; traditional professions and situation on the labor market; life of the Roma with particular focus on the Roma groups in Austria
Length: 2 units

Music

musical styles of Roma music; mutual cultural influencing;
functions of Roma music; music as a profession

Length: 1 unit

Language

origin and development of *Romani*; linguistic affiliation;
lexicon and borrowings, socio-linguistic situation of
Romani; initiatives for the preservation of language

Length: 2 units

Personalities

In this unit the participants shall be made familiar with the
Roma's achievements and their contribution to Europe's
cultural life

Length: 1 unit

ROMBASE

general introduction to Rombase (structure, content,
research); practical examples for independent research

Length: 2 units

Extension Module

History

detailed information on the subjects in the Introductory
Module, depending on interest

Length: 2 units

Names and Terminology

proper names of Roma groups; terms for and classification
of *Romani* dialects

Length: 1 unit

Current Situation

efforts towards emancipation of the Roma; organizational
structures; the battle for recognition and Human Rights;
racism towards Roma; the Roma's educational situation and
their situation on the labor market

Length: 2 units

Sociology and Ethnology

traditional celebrations & customs of the Roma; beliefs;
taboos and the commands of cleanliness

Length: 2 units

Music

musical styles and genres of Roma music – Flamenco,
Csárdas, Sinti-jazz, and Rompop; traditional
instrumentation of Roma ensembles

Length: 2 units

Language

general characteristics of *Romani*; *Romani* sounds and structure; dialects and how they spread in Europe
Length: 2 units

Use in Class

for teachers: ideas on how to use the material in class (handbook) are discussed and new ideas worked upon; looking through the Collection of Material; tips for own research; literature and links for further information
Length: 5 units