

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

**Code:** 33088  
**Name:** Society, Population, Territory and Environment  
**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Academic year:** 2025-26

**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1104 - Degree in Environmental Sciences	Facultat de Ciències Biològiques	1	Second quarter

**SUBJECT-MATTER**

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1104 - Degree in Environmental Sciences	Society, population and territory	BASIC

**COORDINATION**

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**SUMMARY**

The course covers the principal elements of the relationship between the environment, social structures and social change, as well as population and its territorial distribution as a key factor in environmental issues.

The objective is for students to acquire knowledge and to develop their abilities to reflect upon and act upon the social, demographic and territorial aspects of development and sustainability, upon the limits imposed by nature on human activities on the planet, upon the ecological footprint of urbanization and, in general, on the interaction between society and the environment.

**PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE****RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**



## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Capacidad de reflexión y acción sobre percepciones sociales, conflictos y efectos sobre la estructura y el cambio social en torno a los problemas ambientales.

Capacidad de valoración del medio ambiente y de la calidad ambiental.

Capacidad para interpretar procesos territoriales a diversas escalas.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. PART ONE: POPULATION AND TERRITORY

Introduction: Society, population and territory

1. Population and Territory. Population dynamics and structure

- World population: an introduction
- Space and time differences in population growth
- Concept and components of population structure and dynamics
- Natural growth. Mortality. Fertility and natality
- Development and demographic transition
- Migrations

2. Population and Territory. Territorial models

- Urban spaces
  - The urbanization process: phases, causes and consequences
  - The dispersed city, features, causes and consequences; environmental impacts
  - Urbanization and developing countries
- Rural spaces
  - Agriculture, environment and rural spaces in the South
  - Transformations in rural spaces in the North

3. Population and natural resources

- The Limits to Growth: Malthusianism, Neo-Malthusianism and Anti-Malthusianism
- Economic theories and environment
- Production, distribution and resource depletion

4. Society and Environment. Social Perception of environmental problems and cultural change

- Common knowledge and scientific knowledge about ontological reality: geo-bio-psycho-social-cultural
- Reductionist science versus complex science



## 2. PART TWO: SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT

4. Society and Environment. Social Perception of environmental problems and cultural change
- Common knowledge and scientific knowledge about ontological reality: geo-bio-psycho-social-cultural- Anthropocentrism and ecocentrism
  - Opinions on environment and social position
  - Environmental action: environmental sectorialism and the weak practice of the environmental consensus
5. Development, sustainability and global change
- Sustainability and equality: environmental footprint
  - Other indicators of development and sustainability
  - Perspectives and limits of ecological modernization
  - Social change in a post-carbon society and global social dynamics beyond the limits of growth
6. Environment, structure and social change
- Consumption and sustainability
  - Urban sustainability
  - Social-environmental conflict: political economy of environment, risk society, access to natural resources and social inequality

## WORKLOAD

### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Tutorials	3,00
Theory	45,00
Computer classroom practice	6,00
Classroom practices	6,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60,00</b>

### NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	20,00
Independent study and work	35,00
Preparation of lessons	35,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

- Presentation in the classroom of the most important theoretical contents and with more difficulty, through the presentation of the teaching staff, complementing with questions and debate with the students.



- Practical computer class: Students will compulsorily carry out a series of exercises linked to the quantitative and qualitative analysis of demographic data. This will allow them to interpret and understand the current population dynamics and the main demographic, socio-economic and environmental problems associated. These theoretical-practical exercises will complement the theoretical contents explained and will serve as a basis for the generation of debates in the classroom.
- Group tutorials: Discussion of topics covered in the classroom.
- Individual tutorials for the clarification of doubts about theory or practices and work.

## EVALUATION

In order to pass the course, students must obtain at least 5 out of 10 points in the exam(s) of the theoretical part. Only in this case will students be able to average with the marks of the practical block and thus obtain the final mark.

In the event that the student has not handed in the compulsory practical exercises within the deadlines indicated by the teacher, he/she will not be able to sit the theory exam(s) at the first sitting. However, he/she will be able to take a theoretical-practical exam at the second sitting.

In order to apply for an advance sitting of this subject, the student must take into account that he/she must have completed the compulsory activities.

## REFERENCES

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