

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 33792**Name:** Rural Spaces**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 6**Academic year:** 2025-26**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Facultat de Geografia i Història	2	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Rural spaces	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

SERRANO LARA JOSE JAVIER

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SUMMARY

This subject aims at improving students' knowledge and skills on the key topics defining processes and phenomena taking place in the rural areas, both in developed countries (introducing topics such as the Common Agricultural Policy or the recent changes causing an emerging multifunctionality of the rural areas) and in developing countries (considering topics such as poverty and social exclusion). Due to the fact that the subject is developed in the Degree on Geography and Environment, particular attention is played on contextualizing the rural areas from a geographical perspective and, from this point, to establish the main connections with the environmental perspectives. Environmental processes of rural areas are considered transversally, and a specific unit is focused on environmental conflicts and policies in the rural areas.

Overall, the course aims to help to develop attitudes of ethical commitment to the issues that take place in rural areas , as it affects the quality of life of the population, in a framework of economic , social and environmental sustainability.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE



RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

No specific previous knowledge is required, although English reading is enormously useful.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Be able to learn independently and show creativity, initiative and entrepreneurship. Be able to resolve unforeseen situations.

Be able to relate and synthesise cross-disciplinary territorial information.

Be able to relate the natural environment and the social and human spheres.

Be able to work independently.

Be able to work in interdisciplinary teams.

Have capacity for analysis and synthesis.

Have oral and written communication skills in one's own language and in a foreign language.

Learn about geographical history and thinking.

Learn about geographic information systems.

Learn about human, economic and social geography.

Learn about methodology and fieldwork.

Learn about the diversity of places, regions and locations and their relationships.

Learn about the time and space dimensions in the explanation of social, territorial and environmental processes.

Show commitment to the values of gender equality, interculturality, equal opportunities, universal access for people with disabilities, the culture of peace, democratic values and solidarity.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS



1. Geography, rural areas and the environment

Definition of concepts, epistemological perspectives and vision of rural areas throughout the world.

2. Agrarian crisis and modernization-restructuring of world rural areas

Changes in developing countries. From subsistence to globalization. Effects on rural societies and the environment. Recent changes in developed countries (except for EU). Crisis and agrarian modernization. Effects on rural territories and landscapes.

3. Rural areas, activities and agrarian policies in the European Union.

The European rural areas. The Common Agricultural Policy. Characteristics, recent evolution and transformations and their territorial impact in Europe. The CAP in the global context. The dialectics protectionism-development. Discussions on the future perspectives of the CAP.

4. New key questions in the present and futures of the rural areas. Diversification and multifunctionality. Towards the development of the rural areas.

New multifunctional processes in developed countries. Modernization and social change. Demographic flows and rurality: leisure and work market. Ageing, young people and gender. Housing, public health, education and social services. Poverty and exclusion. Territorial management and emerging processes of rural governance.

5. Environmental and resources management in rural areas

Rural areas and natural resources. Water policies and irrigation. Forest management. Environmental conflicts caused by new uses in the rural areas of developed countries (NIMBY conflicts).

6. Synthesis: environmental, social and economic sustainability in the rural areas

Conclusions and global vision of the course. Coming policies, recent experiences and future paths.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
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Theory	30,00
Other activities	15,00
Classroom practices	15,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	5,00
Individual or group project	30,00
Independent study and work	30,00
Preparation of lessons	15,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The subject is divided in 2 weekly sessions, theoretical and practical. Theoretical sessions, based on active methodologies, occasionally will include short films projections. Practices will be focused on the analysis of statistical resources and aiming at improving the oral and written expression of the students.

Several complementary activities will be developed, such as:

- Field trip to a rural area of the Comunitat Valenciana mountains including interviews with local experts
- Two film projection and debate on rural areas depopulation consequences

EVALUATION

Evaluation combines an assessment of continuous tasks and a final exam.

Complementary activities and practices will be developed throughout the course. These will be proposed and collectively corrected during the practical sessions. These activities score a maximum of 5 points.

The final exam will consist on a written test combining different aspects of the subject. It scores a maximum of 5 points.

In order to sum both marks the student must:

- Obtain a score > 2,5 points at the written exam.
- Complete all the practices and activities (also for the second exam).



Evaluation Weights:

Exam: 50%

Practical works: 35%

Complementary activities: 15%

The second call will evaluate the theoretical and practical criteria of the subject in the same way as in the first call.

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