

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 33797**Name:** European Geography**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 6**Academic year:** 2026-27**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Facultat de Geografia i Història	1	Second quarter

**SUBJECT-MATTER**

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Geography II	BASIC

**COORDINATION**

ESPARCIA PEREZ JAVIER

**SUMMARY**

The subject offers a global vision of present-day Europe from a geographical perspective, analysing its environmental, social, economic and territorial diversity. Throughout the course, concepts, data and tools from different branches of Geography are combined to understand the complexity of the European continent. Special attention is paid to the European Union, its construction, institutional structure, policies and current challenges, as well as regional inequalities and the dynamics of change that shape the European space. The subject constitutes an essential frame of reference for interpreting the processes that are shaping Europe today

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

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

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**



None restrictions

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

### 1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment

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

Be able to use cartography and geographic information systems.

Be able to work independently.

Be able to work in interdisciplinary teams.

Have capacity for analysis and synthesis.

Have computer skills related to the field of study.

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

Learn about human, economic and social geography.

Learn about physical geography.

Learn about regional geographical spaces.

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.

Show motivation for quality, responsibility and intellectual honesty.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. Europe in question: challenges, frontiers and data to understand Europe

The major challenges facing Europe today are presented and analysed, such as the climate-environmental crisis, the energy and digital transition, security management, migration, and Europe's role in the world in a changing global order. It will also address questions about its physical, political and cultural borders, as well as the territorial diversity that characterises the continent. Through the use of current data and sources, students will be provided with a comprehensive and well-founded overview of these challenges and of the European situation.



## **2. Built Europe: history, treaties and governance**

This module analyses the process of formation and consolidation of the European project, paying attention to its historical milestones, the motivations that drove the union, and the main treaties that have shaped the EU. It also examines the various enlargements and how they have reshaped the European political map. Finally, it analyses the EU's system of governance, with its institutions, balances and decision-making mechanisms, in order to understand how power and political action are articulated within the EU framework.

## **3. Climate emergency in Europe: impacts and responses**

It studies the environmental situation in Europe, analysing the main risks and problems affecting the European territory, such as climate extremisation, biodiversity loss and pollution. It explores the short and medium-term forecasts and studies the political and strategic responses promoted by the European institutions, with special attention to Climate Action, the European Green Pact, the 2030-2050 climate objectives and the Just Transition Fund, among others. The module combines the environmental and political dimension to understand how Europe addresses sustainability challenges.

## **4. Fragmented Europe: Social Gaps, Cohesion, Welfare and Democracy**

It analyses demographic and social transformations in Europe, highlighting the role of migration in shaping social and territorial structures. It explores how these dynamics generate gaps and tensions that threaten social cohesion and the European welfare model. Finally, it explores the current challenges to democracy and rights in Europe, paying attention to the geography of discontent and unrest, as well as the rise of movements that question Europe's democratic foundations.

## **5. Addressing the 'other' fractures in Europe: economic and territorial cohesion**

This module focuses on the analysis of economic and territorial fractures in Europe, examining regional development and cohesion policies that seek to reduce imbalances between countries and regions. It looks at the territorial cooperation mechanisms promoted by the EU, the Territorial Agenda and the European Urban Agenda, and reflects on the sustainability of the current urban development model. It also considers how recent changes in the configuration of the European urban system influence the economic and territorial cohesion of the continent.

## **6. European Ruralities in Transformation: Resources, Policies and Territories**

This module focuses on the analysis of economic and territorial fractures in Europe, examining regional development and cohesion policies that seek to reduce imbalances between countries and regions. It looks at the territorial cooperation mechanisms promoted by the EU, the Territorial Agenda and the European Urban Agenda, and reflects on the sustainability of the current urban development model. It also considers how recent changes in the configuration of the European urban system influence the economic and territorial cohesion of the continent.

## **7. Productive Europe in mutation: industry, resources and tourism**



This module focuses on the analysis of recent transformations in the economic geography of Europe. It examines the role of globalisation and the new contexts of economic and productive development, as well as the processes of industrial reconversion and their unequal impact on the different European regions. Finally, it looks at tourism as an exponent of the tertiarisation of the European economy, studying its territorial distribution, its importance in the economy of many territories and the tensions it generates in terms of sustainability and cohesion.

Depending on the dynamics of the course, some of the modules could be prepared directly by the students.

## WORKLOAD

### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Other activities	15,00
Classroom practices	15,00
<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	20,00
Preparation for assessment activities	15,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course is structured in modules that combine introductory presentations by the teaching staff with the analysis of statistical, documentary and cartographic sources. Students' active work is encouraged through practical exercises, exploration activities, analysis, reflection and participation in workshops and debates. In addition, self-assessment questionnaires are incorporated and a learning diary is used to encourage continuous reflection. The methodology prioritises the development of critical, analytical and information management skills, adapting to a continuous assessment approach.

## EVALUATION

The evaluation will consist of the following sections (in %):

- 1) Final exam: between 35 and 65 %;



2) Assignments and directed practicals (workshops): between 15 and 35 %;

3) Complementary activities: between 15 and 35 %.

In order to pass the course, a minimum mark of 5 out of 10 must be obtained in the exam as a whole, and 4 out of 10 in both the complementary activities and the workshops or practicals.

Neither the complementary activities nor the workshops or any other practical related activity will be recoverable.

The assessment conditions are the same for both examination periods.

## REFERENCES

For each topic, students will be provided with the references and specific documents (in the Virtual Classroom) necessary for their adequate follow-up, as well as for the implementation and participation in the practical activities (workshops).

Basic

Agencia Europea de Medio Ambiente (2019). El medio ambiente en Europa. Estado y perspectivas 2020. Resumen ejecutivo. 18 p.

¿ Azcárate, M.V., y Sánchez, J. (2013). Geografía de Europa, Ed. UNED. Comisión Europea (2020). Qué es y qué hace la Unión Europea. 64 p. Comisión Europea (2021). Breve guía de la UE. 32 p.

¿ Comisión Europea (2022) . La UE en breve: Mercado Único; Ampliación de la UE; Migración y asilo; Presupuesto; Economía y sociedad digitales; Energía; Transporte, Acción por el clima y el Pacto Verde Europeo; Seguridad alimentaria; Política exterior y de seguridad; Agricultura y desarrollo rural; Política europea de vecindad; Política regional; Comercio; Salud pública; Asuntos marítimos y pesca; Cooperación internacional y desarrollo; Medio ambiente.

¿ Comisión Europea (2022). La UE y yo. 84 p.

¿ López Palomeque, F., Plaza, J.I. (2019). Geografía de Europa. Estructuras, procesos y dinámicas



territoriales.

¿ Romero, J. (2019). Sobre las geografías del malestar en Europa. Papeles de relaciones ecosociales y cambio global. 147: 63-74.

#### Complementary

¿ Bakardjieva, A., Brembert, N., Michalski, A., Oxelheim, L. (2020). The European Union in a Changing World Order. Interdisciplinary European Studies. Palgrave MacMillan.

¿ Bertin, G., Ellison, M., Moro, G. (2021). The European Social Model and an Economy of Well-being. Repairing the Social Fabric of European Societies. Edward Elgar, 654 p. [brochure]

¿ Bradford, A. (2020). The Brussels Effect. How the European Union Rules the World. Oxford University Press.

¿ Careja, R., Emmenegger, P., Giger, N. (2021). The European Social Model under Pressure. Springer. Comisión Europea(2021). Pioneros de la UE: los pioneros que ayudaron a construir la Europa de hoy. 49 p.

¿ Comisión Europea (2022). Natura 2000. 16 p.

¿ Dijkstra, L., Poelman, H., Rodríguez-Pose, A. (2018). The Geography of EU Discontent. Regional and Urban Policy. WP 12/2018. 36 p.

¿ Dolvik, JE., Martin, A., (2014). European Social Models from Crisis to Crisis: Employment and Inequality in the Era of Monetary Integration. Oxford Scholarship. [brochure]

¿ European Commission (2020). Territorial Agenda 2030. A future for all places. 32 p. European Commission (2020): Shaping Europe's Digital Future. 9 p.

¿ European Commission (2021). Employment and social developments in Europe. 25 p.

¿ European Commission (2022). Atlas for the Territorial Agenda 2030. Maps on European Territorial Development. ESPON (<https://www.atlasta2030.eu/en/index.php>).

¿ European Commission (2022). Competencia climática: una propuesta transversal sobre capacidades en Acción por el Empoderamiento Climático. 54 p.

¿ European Commission (2022). Comunicación de la Comisión relativa al Octavo informe sobre la cohesión. COM(2022) 34 final.



- ¿ European Commission (2022). EU regions in the transformation towards a climate-neutral future. 74 p.
  
- ¿ European Commission (2022). EU tools to respond to natural disasters. REGI Committee. 67 p.  
European Commission (2022). European Network for Rural Development. Varios años.
  
- ¿ European Commission (2022). Octavo Informe sobre la Cohesión económica, social y territorial: la Cohesión en Europa en el horizonte de 2050. 353 p. [pdf español].
  
- ¿ European Commission (2022). Rural Connections. The European rural development magazine. Varios años.
  
- ¿ European Environment Agency (2019). The European environment. State and outlook 2020. Knowledge for transition to a sustainable Europe. 499 p.
  
- ¿ European Network for Rural Development (2021). Visión a largo plazo para las zonas rurales. Revista Rural de la UE, 32. 40 p.
  
- ¿ European Parliament (2022). Climate change, environment and health. 66 p.
  
- ¿ European Union Institute for Security Studies (2022). Europe's Energy crisis conundrum. Origins, impacts and way forward. 8.
  
- ¿ Geddes, A., Somerville, W. (2012). Migration and environmental change in international governance: the case of the European Union. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 30: 1015-1028.
  
- ¿ Jones, E., Menon, A., Weatherill, S. (2012). *The Oxford Handbook of the European Union*. Oxford.  
Jordán Galduf, J.M. (2008). *Economía de la Unión Europea*. Thompson Civitas Ediciones.
  
- ¿ López Palomeque (coord.) (2000). *Geografía de Europa*, ed. Ariel
  
- ¿ Nugent, N. (2017). *The Government and Politics of the European Union*. Palgrave MacMillan Education.
  
- ¿ Olsen, J., McCorminck, J. (2017). *The European Union. Politics and Policies*. Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group.
  
- ¿ Pinder, J., Usherwood, S. (2018): *The European Union. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford.
  
- ¿ Ringnalda, S. (2019). *The New Geography of Discontent. Building and explaining and Indicator that captures the extent of perceived Discontent among European*. Economic Geography Thesis, University of Groningen.



¿ Scharpf, F. (2002). The European Social Model. Journal Common Market Studies, 40: 645-670.  
Schreurs, M. (2017): The European Union and the Paris Climate Agreement: moving forward without the United States. Chinese Journal of Population Resources and Environment, 5 p.

¿ Skuras, D., Tyllianakis, E. (2018). The perception of water related risks and the state of the water environment in the European Union. Water Research. 39 p.

¿ Staab, A. (2020). The End of Europe? Five dilemmas of the European Union. Lexington Books.

#### - RECURSOS DE INTERNET

Estos son especialmente importantes en esta asignatura, dado que suponen fuentes de información muy diversas, fiables y actualizadas.

¿ Centre de Documentació Europea de la Universitat de València: <http://www.cdeuv.es/>

¿ Comisión Europea: [https://commission.europa.eu/index\\_es](https://commission.europa.eu/index_es)

¿ EUROSTAT: Dades estadístiques i informes de la Unió Europea, en anglés, francés i alemany (a vegades, en castellà), <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

¿ Parlamento Europeo: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/es>

¿ Agència Europea de Medi Ambient (AEMA): <http://www.eea.europa.eu/es>

¿ Atlas Ambiental dEuropa: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps>

¿ Fondation Robert Schuman: centre d'investigació, amb abundant informació sobre economia, societat, etc., <http://www.robert-schuman.eu/es/>

¿ UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, informes i estadístiques només en anglés, <http://www.unece.org/info/ece-homepage.html>

¿ Press and other resources: For this subject, it is highly advisable to follow the daily press for news and information on the European Union. In addition to the daily press, both digital and in print, RTVE offers other resources of interest, including: <https://www.rtve.es/play/videos/europa/>



¿ For each of the topics, internet resources are usually available (which will be highlighted). Some examples of videos available and of interest are:

- o Discovering Europe What is the European Union: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EspacioEuropa>
- o The New European Urban Agenda: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsx2wyKlpts>
- o The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (1-11-2020): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TveMgxOBNY>
- o Keys to the reform of the CAP 2023-2027: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLeu2xniC20>
- o Depopulation and demographic change in the EU: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPgVZ40tt2I>
- o How will Europe's ageing affect its health care system?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXmdH77WcCA>
- o The European Union. Birth and Treaties of the EU: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KR\\_zNnDprBM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KR_zNnDprBM)
- o Keys to the reform of the CAP 2023-2027: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLeu2xniC20>