COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 33812
Name: Tourism and the Environment
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	4	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Tourism and environment	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

FAJARDO MAGRANER FELIX

SUMMARY

Tourism and the Environment allows 4th year students of the Degree in Geography and the Environment to gain knowledge on the following issues:
- Relationships between tourism and the environment, focusing on both the natural aspects and the human and social elements.
- Study of basic environmental concepts: ecology, sustainable development, environmental sustainability, ecological footprint.
- Importance of environmental resources for touristic activities.
- Main effects of tourism on the environment.
- Sustainable tourism.
- Prevention and correction tools: environmental auditing, Local Agenda 21 and environmental impact assessment.

The general aim of this course is to reflect on the relationship between tourism and the environment, and make students be aware of environmental problems caused by touristic activities. In addition, the course seeks to stress the importance of sustainable tourism as a means to make economic touristic activities compatible with environmental protection.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

There are no specific restrictions. Nevertheless, students are encouraged to revise environmental basic concepts and those courses on environment and sustainable development attended on previous years.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment

Acquire basic knowledge for analysing and diagnosing public policies related to the geographical aspects of the environment.

Acquire basic knowledge for analysing and interpreting environmental risks and for participating in risk prevention plans.

Analyse and value landscapes from a spatial-temporal perspective.

Be able to communicate effectively with non-experts.

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

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.

Get acquainted with geographic information systems as a tool for learning about and interpreting the territory and the environment.

Have capacity for analysis and synthesis.

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

Have problem-solving skills and decision-making capacity. Be able to design and manage projects.

Have research skills.

Have skills for interpersonal relations and ability to adapt to complex situation.

Have skills for organisation, planning, management and assessment.

Learn about methodology and fieldwork.

Learn about territorial and environmental management. Be able to integrate the social, economic and environmental components under the sustainable development approach.

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

Learn basic techniques for fieldwork in geography and particularly for reading and interpreting the landscape in geographic terms.

Participate in the design and implementation of environmental policies, as well as in the evaluation of the environmental impact of projects, plans and programmes.

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

- General introduction to the complexity of relationships between tourism and the environment
- Introduction to the concept of tourism and main elements
- Agents of tourism: the tourist, tourism industry, government and local community

- Development of tourism: origins, roots and historical evolution
- Mass tourism: causes
- Key factors in the contemporary development of tourism
- Factors for touristic location: spatial, environmental, socioeconomic and political
- Touristic resources: definition and classifications
- The touristic product
- Types of tourism: coastal tourism, rural tourism, tourism in urban and metropolitan areas, mountain tourism, tourism in natural reserves and tourism in corporate leisure spaces

Examination of the territorial impact of touristic activities, with particular reference to the effects on the natural environment, the economy and society as basic components of the environment:
- Consequences of tourism on the natural environment: environmental impacts and problems

Introduction to the concept of sustainable tourism as a means to make the promotion of tourism compatible with environmental protection:
- Environmental sustainability or sustainable development? Two visions of the ecological
6
problematique
- The idea of environmental responsibility applied to tourism: the tourist as an ecological citizen
- Origins of sustainable tourism

1. Introduction: tourism and the environment

- General introduction to the complexity of relationships between tourism and the environment

2. Tourism: evolution, elements, typology

- Development of tourism: origins, roots and historical evolution
- Mass tourism: causes
- Key factors in the contemporary development of tourism

3. The territorial impact of tourism: environment, economy and society

Examination of the territorial impact of touristic activities, with particular reference to the effects on the natural environment, the economy and society as basic components of the environment:

4. Sustainable tourism

Introduction to the concept of sustainable tourism as a means to make the promotion of tourism compatible with environmental protection:
- Environmental sustainability or sustainable development? Two visions of the ecological
6
- Concept, elements and forms of sustainable tourism
- Tools to measure tourisms sustainability and strategies: Spain, the European Union and the international community
- Examples and case studies

5. Assessment, planning and evaluation tools

Study of assessment, planning and evaluation tools to measure the environmental effects of touristic activities:
- Planning and managing sustainable tourism: principles
- Environmental planning and managing tools:
a) Environmental policy: economic analysis of pollution, legislation, taxes and fiscal benefits
b) Environmental auditing in touristic towns
c) Local Agenda 21

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
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	10,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	5,00
Total hours	**90,00**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:
- Lectures: for the different subjects to be explained. Through individual work and active participation, students will develop autonomous learning skills.
- Practical sessions: the aim will be to analyze case studies and other individual and group exercises.
- Seminars: to stimulate debate and reflection on the basis of scientific papers, media articles or documentaries.
- Individual and group tutorials: for questions and doubts related to the conceptual parts of the course as well as to practical matters.
- Additional activities.

NON-ATTENDING ACTIVITIES:
- Preparation of lectures: this is the student's daily work in order to gain further information through basic bibliography and additional readings.
- Practical assignments: individual and group exercises such as case studies, project design, research on different sources (web, media, etc) or report writing.
- Preparation of seminars: reading and interpreting academic articles or texts for classroom discussion and working on presentations

EVALUATION

The final grade will take into account the student¿s individual and group work, attendance and active participation, according to the following criteria:
40% Written examination in the date agreed by the Faculty. Both subject knowledge and writing skills will be evaluated.
45% Practical activities. To be done in the classroom although sometimes assignments will have to be finished at home.
15% Others
In the 2nd Call, the theoretical-practices evaluation criteria will be the same as in the 1st Call.

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