

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

Code: 35004
Name: Productive Activity 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	3	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Productive activity and the environment	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

MELO ESCRIBUELA CARMÉ

SUMMARY

The course Productive Activities and the Environment deals with the relationship between the different productive sectors and activities and the environment. The main goal is to raise student's awareness about the impacts that the different productive activities, and the model of economic development they promote, have on the environment. Hence some of the main environmental problems related to productive activities will be analyzed, namely those related to agriculture, farming, industries and services, such as resource depletion, deforestation, biodiversity loss, species extinction, waste, consumption and climate change. But beyond a focus on problems, the course aims at equipping students with the tools needed to critically reflect on alternative and sustainable models of production and consumption, and the transition towards an ecological and ethical paradigm.

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

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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.

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 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.

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

1. Introduction: society, economy and environment

- Socio-economic systems: effects on the environment
- Economic activity and resource use

2. Productive activity: structure of productive sectors

- Agriculture
- Industry
- Services

3. Economic development and the environment

- Environmental impacts of economic growth
- Ecology and ecologism
- Economic development, sustainable development and sustainability
- Productivism, consumption and consumerism

4. Environmental problems related to productive activities

- Agriculture, farming and environment
- Effects of industrial activities
- Business and nature
- Analysis of specific problems (water, deforestation, biodiversity loss, waste, climate change)

5. Alternative production models: towards a new ecological paradigm

- Organic agriculture
- Sustainable production: reduction of resource use or technological efficiency?
- Sustainable consumption: green consumerism versus reduction of consumption
- Ethical and sustainable businesses

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	0,00
Individual or group project	40,00
Independent study and work	30,00
Preparation of lessons	20,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

- Participatory 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 read and discuss articles, analyze case studies and do individual and group exercises.

- Seminars: to stimulate debate and reflection on the basis of journal articles, media articles or documentaries.

- Tutorials: for questions and doubts related to the conceptual parts of the course as well as to practical matters.

- Additional activities: exhibitions, fieldwork or conferences and seminars.



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 text analysis, 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.

30% Essay related to the complementary activities.

30% Practical activities. This includes participation in and preparation of seminars and written exercises.

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

REFERENCES

Basic

- Ballesteros, J. i Pérez Adán, J. (eds): (2000): Sociedad y medio ambiente. Madrid: Trotta.
- Carpintero, O. (1999): Entre la economía y la naturaleza. Madrid: Libros de la Catarata.
- De Cuerdo, M. i Ramos, J.L. (1999): Economía y naturaleza: una historia de las ideas. Madrid: Síntesis.



- Naredo, J.M. i Valero, A. (dirs.) (1999): Desarrollo económico y deterioro ecológico. Visor.
- Baker, S. (2006): Sustainable Development. London: Routledge.

Additional

- Azkarraga Etxagibel, J. i Altuna, L. (2012): Cooperativismo, economía solidaria y paradigma ecológico. Una aproximación conceptual, *Ecología Política*, 44: 33-41.
- Carpintero, O. (2005): El metabolismo de la economía española. Madrid: Fundación César Manrique. <http://www.fcmanrique.org/recursos/publicacion/elmetabolismo.pdf>
- García Delgado, J. L. i Myro, R. (2013): Lecciones de economía española. Cizur Menor (Navarra): Thomson-Aranzadi.
- Gómez-Baggethun, E. (2012): Economía verde o la mistificación del conflicto entre crecimiento económico y límites ecológicos, *Ecología Política*, 44: 51-58.
- Ramos Gorostiza, J. L. (2005): Medio natural y pensamiento económico: historia de un reencuentro, *Principios*, 2: 47-70.
- Revista Ecological Economics <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/ecological-economics/>
- Revista Ecología Política <http://ecologiapolitica.info/wordpress/>
- Agencia Europea del Medio Ambiente