Corporate Social Responsibility

Code: 43059
ECTS Credits: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4313784 Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability</td>
<td>OT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact**

Name: Maria Rosa Rovira Val
Email: MariaRosa.Rovira@uab.cat

**Teachers**

Isabel Pont Castejón

**Use of languages**

Principal working language: **english (eng)**

**Prerequisites**

To be developed

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The course has two differentiate parts. One is an introduction to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of organisations including the environmental, social and governance dimensions of the organisation’s activity. The other part is an introduction to European environmental law.

At the end of the course the student is expected to have a good understanding of:

- An introduction to European environmental law.
- The concept of corporate social responsibility and the main international standards & tools for CSR.

**Skills**

- Analyse, summarise, organise and plan projects related to the environmental improvement of product, processes and services.
- Apply knowledge of environmental and ecological economics to the analysis and interpretation of environmental problem areas.
- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Work in an international, multidisciplinary context.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Analyse best practices in corporate social responsibility.
2. Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
3. Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
4. Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
5. Know the main concepts, regulations and international initiatives concerning the different dimensions of corporate social responsibility (economic, environmental, social, corporate governance).
6. Work in an international, multidisciplinary context.

Content

The course is divided in two main parts (i) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) standards and tools and (ii) European environmental law.

**Corporate Social Responsibility standards and tools.**

- European Union concept and directive on CSR
- Other approaches to CSR
- International standards/tools for CSR and their relationships
- CSR transparency, accountability and communication: the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

**European environmental law**

- Beginning and development of European environmental law
- European Union principles and legal basis for environmental law
- Instruments and policies
- The European Union actors on environmental law
- The role of the European Union and the role of the states and local authorities
- Harmonization, enforcement and implementation

Environmental protection and substantive environmental law

Methodology

**Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type: Directed</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise in class</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>1, 5, 2, 4, 3, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type: Autonomous</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading articles, books and studying for each of the given lectures</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1, 5, 4, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short essay writing, which involves reading the necessary academic literature</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1, 5, 2, 4, 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation

The student will be evaluated separately for each of the two parts of the course based on: i) the knowledge obtained at the end of the course regarding the proposed academic literature and the other topics and aspects worked during the sessions; ii) his brief written submissions and his capacity for critical analysis, and iii) the attendance and participation in the sessions.

Details:

Two brief writings of 500-1000 words. The teacher will evaluate the writing according to her/his own criteria. The student could ask for details on his/her mark with the corresponding teacher.

The final exam lasts 2 hours and covers most of the topics worked during the sessions. The space for the answers will be limited and these will have to demonstrate the understanding and mastery of the main concepts and ideas provided during the course. The corresponding teacher will assess them according to her/his own criteria. The student could ask for details on his/her grade with the corresponding teacher.

Evaluation activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1, 5, 2, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>1, 5, 2, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in class</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1, 5, 2, 4, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 short essay writings</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1, 5, 2, 4, 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bibliography

Bibliography - Corporate social responsibility

BENN, SUZANNE and BOLTON DIANNE (2011) Key concepts in corporate social responsibility, SAGE, Los Angeles (Calif.)


HABISCH, ANDRÉ et al. (2005), Corporate social responsibility across Europe, Springer Berlin, Heidelberg (electronic format)

HOPKINS, MICHAEL (2007), Corporate social responsibility and international development: is business the solution?, Earthscan, London


Bibliography - European environmental law


JUSTE RUIZ, J., CASTILLO DAUDÍ, M., la protección del medio ambiente en el ámbito internacional y en la Unión europea, Tirant loBlanc, Valencia, 2014

HAIGH, Nigel, EU Environmental Policy: Its journey to Centre Stage. 2016.


KRAMER, L. EU Environmental Law, Sweet and Maxwell, 8th ed. 2015

LEE, Maria; EU Environmental Law, Governance and Decision-Making, 2nd Ed. 2014


**Bibliography - Environmental Law. Others**


THORNTON, James; GOODMAN, Martin, CLIENT EARTH 2017. Scribe Publications (May 11, 2017)

CAMPINS, M; CASADO, L; NIETO, J.E; PIGRAU, A; PONT, I; Environmental Law in Spain, Wolter Kluwers-kluwer Law International, The Netherlands, 2014

**Webs**

PNUMA (United Nations Program for Environment http://www.pnuma.org

European Court of Human rights http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/


European Environment Agency http://www.eea.europa.eu