

**Environmental Sociology**

Code: 101129  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500262 Sociology	OB	3	2

**Contact**

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**Use of languages**

Principal working language: catalan (cat)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Teachers**

Guillem Sala Lorda

**Prerequisites**

None

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The objective of the course is double. On the one hand, the aim is to understand the relationships between nature and society through the different theoretical contributions of the social sciences, particularly from the already long tradition of environmental sociology. On the other hand, it is intended to reflect on environmental risks, their social and political implications and the main theoretical and practical debates related to their social perception, management and governance. In both objectives, emphasis will be placed on the issue of power and inequalities, on the role of scientific knowledge in the definition and management of environmental problems, in the different types of social and political responses implemented to address these issues.

**Content**

Contents:

1. Relationships nature / society:

Different theoretical interpretations

Human activity and environmental vectors: water, energy, waste, food, biodiversity, territory and urban planning, air quality and climate change (these vectors will also appear in the rest of the sections of the program)

2. Contemporary environmental concerns:

Origins and evolution. Different theoretical interpretations (causes based on technology, economics, politics, institutions, social constructionism, etc.).

Ecological explanations: Chicago School (Park, Burgess, etc.); Model POET (Duncan); Model HEP-NEP (Catton & Dunlap), etc.

Explanations from the political economy: Wheel of production model (Schnaiberg); Second contradiction of capitalism (O'Connor); Popular Ecology (Martínez-Alier); Risk Society (Beck), Ecological Modernization (Mol and Spargaaren), etc.

### 3. Environmental and technological risks:

Concept of risk and its social and political implications. The social dimensions of risk.

Social perception of environmental and technological risks: Different perspectives (psychometric, cultural, institutional, etc.).

Environmental conflicts: Models of analysis of the structure of conflicts.

### 4. Social movements and the environment:

The origins of socio-environmental mobilization: Conservationism and environmentalism.

The increase (of perception) of environmental risks and the new ecologism (or political ecologism).

Other social movements (naturism, etc.) and contemporary evolution (platforms, etc.)

### 5. Environmental policies:

Ecological modernization and sustainable development

Environmental governance and the precautionary principle

Degrowth and transitions towards sustainability