

Environmental Administration and Policy

Code: 102815
ECTS Credits: 3

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2501915 Environmental Sciences	OB	2	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: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Other comments on languages

Es necesario tener competencias lectoras en inglés

Prerequisites

This is an introductory course because it's the first subject of "Political Science" that is offered in the Degree in Environmental Sciences. Consequently, prior academic requirements for its follow-up cannot be considered. However, the habit of reading in the written or digital press news related to politics and administration and a participatory political culture by students are considered favourable. The continuous evaluation -with tutoring and seminars- of this subject, makes face-to-face attendance essential in most of its sessions.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Despite the title of the subject (Administration and Environmental Policies) we will start from the premise that the public administration is not the only, not even the main, political actor in the elaboration of environmental policies and the promotion of sustainable development. In this sense, it seems much more opportune to talk about environmental governance, understood as that network of political actors (public and private) and interactions between these actors, which allows decisions to be made that affect environmental policies and sustainable development.

The introductory and very synthetic nature (3 ECTS) of this subject limits the scope, but not the transcendence of its objectives. For this, a strategic approach is necessary in the design of its contents: it will not be so much to deepen in technical or descriptive aspects of the subject (Political Science / Administration Science) as to predispose the student for an understanding policy of environmental problems and sustainability. The collective and conflictual (political) nature of environmental problems requires an approach that is facilitative and oriented towards transformation. In this sense, we have considered it appropriate to give relevance to concepts such as "environmental governance" or "transition to sustainability" and make them the backbone of the contents of this subject. These concepts cannot be included in a conventional agenda of Political Science or Science of Administration and, therefore, are of little use for this subject, the follow-up of manuals or the performance of theoretical exams. This, as we will see in "Methodology", also reflected in the teaching method.

The study and understanding of the governance processes that favour the transition towards sustainability is, in short, the main objective of this subject.

In a more explicit and concrete way we can list the objectives that are derived:

- Understand and assess the political nature of environmental problems and conflicts; of sustainable development as a political, economic, social and cultural commitment for the future.
- Identify and study the main political actors, their resources and instruments in the management of environmental problems and sustainability.
- Understand the concept of "environmental governance" to favour processes of "transition towards sustainability".
- Acquire the skills and abilities necessary to know how to apply the concepts of "environmental governance" and "transition towards sustainability" to specific cases (specific territorial and sectoral areas).

Content

SECTION 1: POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY

1. What is the policy? Conflict management and provision of public goods. Sustainability as a public good.
2. The tragedy of the commons as a metaphor for the political management of sustainability. Sustainability and governance of the commons.
3. Politics and political power: resources and strategies. Political power, legitimacy and coercion.
4. The political system: political actors, institutions and decisions. The concept of governance.

SECTION 2: POLICIES AND SUSTAINABILITY

5. What are public policies? Political system and public policies. Sustainability and environmental policies.
6. Who makes public policies? Political actors, resources, interests and belief systems.
7. Networks of actors and policies. The concept of promoter coalition.
8. How are the policies made? Cycle and phases of elaboration.

SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

9. The concept of governance. Environmental governance and environmental policy.
10. Environmental governance and transitions towards sustainability.