

Corporate Social Responsibility

Code: 43059
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313784 Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability	OT	0	1

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Teachers

Isabel Pont Castejón

Prerequisites

To be developed

Objectives and Contextualisation

The course has two differentiated 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

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

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:

One or 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

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Class attendance	10%	0	0	1, 5, 2, 6
Final exam	50%	3	0.12	1, 5, 4, 2
Participation in class	20%	0	0	1, 5, 4, 2, 6
Short essay writings	20%	0	0	1, 5, 4, 2, 3

Bibliography

Bibliography - Corporate social responsibility

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EUROPEAN UNION (2011) Corporate social responsibility: national public policies in the European Union / European Commission. Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs, Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, ISBN 9789279197208

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

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Bibliography - European environmental law

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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/>

Council of Europe. Manual on human rights and the environment"; Council of Europe Publishing 2012, http://www.echr.coe.int/LibraryDocs/DH_DEV_Manual_Environment_Eng.pdf

Official website European Union http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

Training Package on Principles of EU Environmental Law
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/law/principles.htm>

Official Journal of the European Union <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/oj/direct-access.html?locale=en>

Summaries of the European environmental legislation
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/chapter/environment.html?root_default=SUM_1_CODED%3D20&locale=en

European Commission (Environment) : http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm

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

