

**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:

- Introduction to the main concepts and topics of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- Introduction to the European environmental law.

**Competences**

- 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

Introduction  
 Perspectives on Corporate Social Responsibility  
 Critiques of Corporate Social Responsibility  
 Actors and Drivers  
 Managing Corporate Social Responsibility

### 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

## Assessment

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/her brief written submissions and his/her capacity for critical analysis, and
- iii) Active 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.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final exam	50%	3	0.12	1, 5, 4, 2
Participation in class	25%	0	0	1, 5, 4, 2, 6
Short essay writings	25%	0	0	1, 5, 4, 2, 3

## Bibliography

### Bibliography - Corporate social responsibility

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

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

OKPARA, JOHN O. and IDOWU, SAMUEL O. (2013) Corporate social responsibility: challenges, opportunities and strategies for 21st century leaders, Springer Berlin, Heidelberg

### Bibliography - European environmental law

Jan H. JANS; Hans H.B. Vedder European Environmental Law, Europa law Publishing (Fourth Edition) 2012

CLEMENT, Marc Droit européen de l'environnement. Jurisprudence commentée, ed, Larcie, 2016

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<https://ieep.eu/understanding-the-eu/manual-of-european-environmental-policy>

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

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MACRORY et al. (2004), Principles of European Environmental Law. Europa Law Publishing.

#### Bibliography- Environmental Law. Others

BIRNIE, P.W.-BOYLE, A.E., REDGWELL, C., International Law and Environment, 3a ed. Oxford University Press, 2009.

BROWN WEISS, E. (Edited), Environmental Challenge and International Law, The United Nations University Press, 1992.; International Environmental Law, Second Edition (Casebook) 2nd Edition, 2006

KISS, A., SHELTON, D., A Guide to International Environmental Law, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2007

SANDS, Ph., Principles of International Environmental Law, Cambridge University Press, 2nd. Ed., Manchester/N.Y., 2012

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](http://www.echr.coe.int/LibraryDocs/DH_DEV_Manual_Environment_Eng.pdf)

Official website European Union [http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](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](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](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm)

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