

Regional Economics

Code: 102839
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2501915 Environmental Sciences	OT	4	1

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

Other comments on languages

Hi haurà lectures en anglès

Prerequisites

Must have basic knowledge of economics, statistics and English (reading).

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course has as main objective that students know the mechanisms that explain the creation of cities, their spatial structure, economic and environmental outcomes. Also, recent dynamics on population and employment dispersion.

The course is presented from a multidisciplinary perspective, where economic contents are combined with arguments from geography, urban planning, environmental sciences, and urban economics.

Another objective is that students learn critically review specialized academic papers, offering to students abroad and updated vision that allows them to apply for courses more advanced in any Spanish or foreign university.

Competences

- Adequately convey information verbally, written and graphic, including the use of new communication and information technologies.
- Analyze and use information critically.
- Demonstrate adequate knowledge and use the tools and concepts of the most relevant social science environment.
- Demonstrate concern for quality and praxis.
- Demonstrate initiative and adapt to new situations and problems.
- Teaming developing personal values regarding social skills and teamwork.
- Work autonomously

Learning Outcomes

1. Adequately convey information verbally, written and graphic, including the use of new communication and information technologies.
2. Analyze and use information critically.
3. Critically analyze basic environmental science literature in Catalan, Castilian and English.
4. Demonstrate concern for quality and praxis.
5. Demonstrate initiative and adapt to new situations and problems.
6. Identify environmental and social impacts associated with human activity.
7. Properly use the analytical concepts of environmental science.
8. Teaming developing personal values regarding social skills and teamwork.
9. Work autonomously

Content

Block I. Urban form and spatial structure

1. Urban Planning: Main currents 1850-2010

Garden city, Functionalist city, Polycentrism and Regional Planning, Cellular Growth, Vertical City, Scattered City

2. The bid rent model

Cities and markets

The monocentric city: Why does land rent falls as the distance to the main center increase?

Block II. Urban Dynamics

3. Polycentrism

The emergence of city networks around the world

4. Urban Sprawl

The causes of urban sprawl. The measurement of urban sprawl.

Scattered growth in Spanish cities from 1998 to 2007

From the real state bubble to 2007 economic crisis

Block III. Urban form and sustainability

5. The two models of urban sustainability: The Compact City Approach and the Self-sufficient City Approach

6. Measures of sustainability and empirical evidence. GHG emissions, carbon footprint, ecological footprint.

The contribution of cities to climate change

Methodology

The sessions are dedicated to exposing the contents of the course making use of several power points.

These Power points summarize the contents in Spanish. In addition, for each subject, there are some course notes. They are the second study tool. Both the powers points and the course notes are accessible by the students through the virtual campus. After each topic will pose a series of questions that should serve to review and summarize the main concepts, their implications, and what the empirical evidence available indicates.

These questions will give a debate between the students directed and guided by the teacher during the hours of practical classes.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Problem solving classes	15	0.6	3, 2, 5, 4, 6, 1, 9, 8, 7
Teaching classes	30	1.2	3, 2, 5, 6, 9, 7
Type: Supervised			
Tutoring	15	0.6	2, 5, 4, 1, 9
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study	66	2.64	3, 2, 5, 4, 6, 9, 7

Assessment

The evaluation combines controls on the content of the course and also performs short assignments (Work 1 and Work 2) where the students can make some research into some aspect of the subject.

Partial exam: 10%

Work 1: 35%

Work 2: 35%

Final exam: 20%

To have the option of being reevaluated the student must have been received a mark in activities that represent 2/3 of the final mark during the course.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final Exam	20%	2	0.08	3, 2, 5, 4, 6, 1, 9, 7
Partial Exam	10%	2	0.08	3, 2, 5, 4, 6, 1, 9, 7
Work 1	35%	10	0.4	3, 2, 5, 4, 6, 1, 9, 8, 7
Work 2	35%	10	0.4	3, 2, 5, 4, 6, 1, 9, 8, 7

Bibliography

Hall, P. (1996) "Ciudades del mañana. Historia del urbanismo del siglo XX". Ediciones el Serbal, Barcelona

Ellin, N. (1996) "Postmodern urbanism". Princeton architectural press, New York

Muñiz, I. and Garcia-López, M.A. (2008) "The effect of employment subcenters on population density in Barcelona" *Urban Studies*, 45, pp. 627-649.

Muñiz, I., Calatayud, D., Garcia-López, M.A., Galindo, A. (2007) "Sprawl. causas y efectos de la dispersión urbana" en Indovina, F. (coord) *La ciudad de baja densidad. Lógicas y gestión y autocontención*. Diputació de Barcelona. Xarxa de Municipis

Gordon, P. and Richardson, H.W. (1998) "Beyond policentricity: the dispersed metropolis. Los Angeles 1970-1990". *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 62, pp. 289-295.

Wackernagel, M. (1996) "Ciudades sostenibles?" *Ecología política* n1 12, pp. 43-50.

Software