Interpretation and Assessment of the Landscape

Code: 104261
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Geography, Environmental Management and Spatial Planning	OP	4

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this document.

Prerequisites

The syllabus of this course builds upon the content covered in the compulsory subjects from the first three years of the degree. If the student has one or more pending subjects from previous years, they must consult the course instructors before enrolling.

Additionally, to follow this course, students must have a command of Catalan and/or Spanish at level B2 or higher.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The main objective of this course is for students to acquire the necessary knowledge to develop a critical understanding of the multifaceted interpretation of landscape, territorial planning, and the related fields of study.

To achieve this main goal, the course proposes to:

- Explore the concept of landscape from both a general and regulatory perspective.
- Analyze landscape protection at European and national levels.
- Provide a framework for research into landscape changes caused by biophysical and social factors.
- Offer an overview of landscape studies based on the skills developed throughout the degree.

Learning Outcomes

1. CM17 (Competence) Develop proposals for action and intervention in the territory that address socio-environmental problems.
2. KM23 (Knowledge) Describe the dynamics and effects of global change from the natural, socio-economic and cultural systems.
3. SM17 (Skill) Create vegetation maps incorporating landscape descriptions at different scales through the use of plant species identification guides.
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Content

Block 1. Landscape: Legislation and Protection

- European Landscape Convention
- Catalan Landscape Observatory
- Catalan Landscape Law
- Landscape Catalogues
- Landscape Units
- Landscape Guidelines
- Landscape Charters
- Municipal Urban Development Plans
- Plan for Areas of Natural Interest (PEIN)
- Land Stewardship
- High Mountain Law

Block 2. The Ever-Changing Landscape: Natural, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Dynamics

- Landscape changes
- Political dynamics and landscape

Block 3. Landscape: Interpretation and Assessment for Protection

- Interpretation of historical landscapes through toponymy
- Interpretation based on landscape ecology
- Citizen participation processes
- Landscape impact and integration studies

Block 4. Practical Exercises on Landscape Changes Over the Last 80 Years, Landscape Ecology, and Toponymy

- Seminars and workshops to carry out the exercises
- Design and setup of an exhibition
- Presentation of the exercises and exhibition opening

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Field trip (PCAM)	4	0.16	CM17, KM23, CM17
GIS practice (PLAB)	9	0.36	CM17, KM23, CM17
Practical sessions (PAUL)	12	0.48	CM17, KM23, CM17
Theoretical concepts of the subject (TE)	24	0.96	CM17, KM23, SM17, CM17
Type: Supervised			
Monitoring of practical exercises	20	0.8	CM17, KM23, CM17
Recognition of the study area	5	0.2	CM17, KM23, CM17
Type: Autonomous			
Practical exercises	40	1.6	CM17, KM23, CM17
Preparation of materials and study	35	1.4	CM17, KM23, CM17

Methodology

The first three blocks of the course are based on theoretical instruction. Afterwards, following the field trip, the fourth block begins, which consists of the course project as a synthesis of what has been learned, and during which GIS will be used. Class time will also be dedicated to preparing and setting up an exhibition, which will mainly include historical and current landscape photographs, orthophotos from different years, and various charts and graphs.

Innovative teaching methodologies will be used: interactive dynamics, quizzes using Kahoot at the end of sessions to review key points, role-playing games, work focused on the final exhibition and its presentation, cooperative and collaborative learning, etc.

To improve students' communication skills, part of a session will be dedicated to oral expression and preparing engaging presentations. The skills acquired will be practiced in a short presentation on landscape units, as well as in the final presentation of the practical exercises.

Field Trip

The field trip will take place in Pallars Sobirà and will last a full day. It will be conducted in accordance with the Faculty's Field Trip Protocol. Students will have access to specific documentation regarding safety during off-campus activities organized by the UAB, which they will be required to review and accept.

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.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance, active participation in classroom activities, and field trip	20%	0	0	CM17, KM23, SM17
Exhibition design and installation	10%	0	0	CM17, KM23
Practical exercises	30%	0	0	CM17, KM23
Public presentation of the practial exercises	15%	0	0	CM17, KM23
Written exam on the contents	25%	1	0.04	CM17, KM23

To pass the course, the following must be taken into account:

- Attendance on the field trip is strictly mandatory.
- Students must have completed the practical exercises, contributed to the design and setup of the exhibition, and delivered a public presentation of the exercises.
- A minimum grade of 3.5 is required in each of the five assessable activities, regardless of their weight in the final grade.
- Among the failed activities, only the written exam on the course content and the practical exercises may be retaken. If either one has already been passed, it cannot be repeated.
- If a student commits any irregularity (plagiarism or fraudulent behavior) that could significantly alter the evaluation of an activity, that activity will receive a grade of 0, regardless of any disciplinary proceedings that may follow. In cases of multiple irregularities within the same course, the final grade for the course will be 0. Additionally, these evaluation activities will not be eligible for resit.
- A student will receive a "not assessable" grade if they have completed less than 30% of the evaluation activities.
- The final grade, calculated based on the weighted average of the five assessable activities, must be a pass (between 5 and 10 points). A final grade between 0 and 4.8 will be considered a fail.

Additional relevant information:

- This course does not allow for a single assessment model.
- Students have the right to review the grades of all assessment activities. The teaching staff will inform them of the procedure and review date.
- The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted as part of the work process, as long as the final result reflects a significant personal contribution from the student in terms of analysis and critical thinking. The student must clearly identify which parts were generated using AI tools, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how they influenced the process and the final result. Lack of transparency in the use of AI will be considered academic dishonesty and may lead to a lower grade or more serious penalties in severe cases.

- Copying or plagiarizing material, whether in assignments or exams, constitutes academic misconduct and will be penalized with a zero on the activity. In case of repeated offenses, the entire course will be failed. Please note: "copying" refers to submitting work that replicates all or most of someone else's work. "Plagiarism" refers to presenting all or part of someone else's text as your own, without citing the sources, whether printed or digital. See UAB documentation on plagiarism: http://wuster.uab.es/web_argumenta_obert/unit_20/sot_2_01.html

Bibliography

Belmonte Ribas, Ánchel; Laporte, Lise, 2021, El Pirineo sin Briet, cien años de cambios en el paisaje, Geoparque Mundial Unesco Sobrarbe-Pirineos.

Boada, Martí; Saurí, David, 2003, El canvi global, Ed. Rubes.

Borja, Jordi, 2010, Llums i ombres de d'urbanisme de Barcelona, Empúries

Bru, Josepa, 1997, Medio ambiente poder y espectáculo, Icaria.

Cerdán, Rufí i altres, 2004, Anàlisi del paisatge del Bages, Perspectives territorials 6, DPTOP, 13-22.

Colell Orrit, David, 2009, Els conflictes mediambientals a Ponent. Ipcena: defensant el medi ambient i la vida de qualitat des del 1990, Joan Vàzquez.

Cortina, Albert, 2010, Nova cultura del territori i ètica del paisatge, Consell Assessor per al desenvolupament sostenible.

Esteban, Juli, 2001, L'ordenació urbanística: Unitats, eines i pràctiques, Col·lecció espai públic urbà, DIBA.

Folch, Ramon, 2003, El territorio como sistema, conceptos y herramientas de ordenacción, Col·lección Territorio y gobierno, Visones num 3.

Nel·lo,Oriol, 2003, Aquí no! Conflictes territorials de Catalunya, Empúries.

Anuari territorial de Catalunya, 2009, Societat Catalana d'Ordenació del Territori, Institut d'Estudis Catalans.

Diputació de Barcelona, Els processos de l'agenda 21 Local en els municipis de Barcelona. Manuals (3 vol.).

DMAH 2010, Balanç i perspectives de l'avaluació ambiental a Catalunya.

Decret Legislatiu 1/2005, de 26 de juliol, pel qual s'aprova el Text refós de la Llei d'urbanisme.

Directiva 2001/42/CE d'avaluació ambiental de plans i programes.

Ley 9/2006 de evaluación de planes y programas que pueden afectar el medio ambiente.

Llei 8/2005 de protecció, gestió i ordenació del paisatge de Catalunya.

Llei 6/2009 d'avaluació ambiental de plans i programes.

RDL 1/2008 de evaluación de impacto ambiental de proyectos.

Webs

http://www.diba.cat/xarxasost/

http://es.groups.yahoo.com/group/territori/

http://territori.scot.cat/cat/anuari.php

DTES Planificació territorial

DTES Avaluació ambiental de plans i infraestructures

Software

The subject does not use any specific program other than the one used in the previous courses: GIS tools, Excel, word processor, etc.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this link. To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(PCAM) Field practices	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed