

## Population and Biodiversity

Code: 106227  
ECTS Credits: 6

**2025/2026**

Degree	Type	Year
Science, Technology and Humanities	OB	3

### Contact

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### Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

### Prerequisites

It is advisable to review block 1 of the subject of Life and evolution (1C-2S); the topic "Climate and climate change" from the Planeta Terra subject (1C-2S); the subject of Ecology and sustainability (2C-4S); and the subject of Gens and society (3C-5S).

To ensure the integration of the contents of this course within the grade, it will be necessary to keep in mind topics such as "The meaning of life" of the subject of Fundamentals of Philosophy and Ethics (1C-1S); the contents of the subject of Social and cultural anthropology (1C-2S); the topic of "Conceptions of culture: biological and anthropological" of the subject of Culture and Technology (2C-3S); and the topic of "The androcentric view in the construction of science" of the subject of Gender and Science (3C-6S); among others.

### Objectives and Contextualisation

From the perspective of biological evolution, this course offers a deep exploration of the essential questions about human existence: Where do we come from? What are we? How are we? Where do we go? We will examine the origin and diversity of the human species, our distinctive characteristics and the variation in our populations. Furthermore, the impact of our species on global biodiversity and how it interacts with the natural world will be analysed, highlighting the importance of sustainability and conservation for the future of humanity and the planet.

It is expected that through this course, the students may combine the necessary elements to integrate the biological vision of human existence with other perspectives, such as the philosophical and from the field of sociology, which are taught in the grade, to enrich the multidisciplinary understanding and promote a holistic approach.

### Competences

- Explain the basic concepts related to life, its origin and evolution, especially those referring to health and illness throughout history.
- Relate terrestrial dynamics and the variable of time in the terrestrial, atmospheric and climatic processes, and identify the problems generated by use of natural resources on the part of humans.

- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the mechanisms that generate biological diversity in our species and interpret their adaptive significance and the mechanisms that maintain this diversity.
2. Apply the knowledge acquired in complex or professional work settings.
3. Identify your own training needs in the field of study, work or professional practice, and organise your own learning.
4. Interrelate the environmental, biological and cultural data that merge in the interpretation of human evolution.

## Content

### I. Where do we come from?

- Primates
- Hominins
- Genus Homo

### II. What are we?

- Migrants
- Mestizos
- Hosts and holobionts

### III. How are we?

- Adapted
- Miscellaneous
- Our Neanderthal mirror

### IV. Where do we go?

- Evolutionary legacy
- Demography and epidemiology
- Human disconnection and future scenarios

## Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			

Classroom Practice	16	0.64	1, 2, 3, 4
Theoretical lessons	33	1.32	1, 2, 3, 4
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	5	0.2	3
Type: Autonomous			
Bibliographic research	5	0.2	3
Personal study	55	2.2	1, 3
Reading scientific texts	18	0.72	1, 3
Writing assignments	15.5	0.62	1, 2, 3, 4

To achieve the objectives of the course, the teaching methodology focuses on learning, using three types of strategies: (1) sessions with the whole group, (2) individual or small group activities within the classroom or on the UAB's Virtual Campus and (3) individual or group autonomous work for the preparation of writings and presentations. The tools provided by the Virtual Campus and other internet resources will be used.

1. Sessions with the whole group: Classroom sessions complemented with personal study. These sessions will include (a) presentations by the teaching staff that will encourage student participation in the form of debates or collective reflections, and (b) flipped classroom, in which the students will previously analyse the study material and carry out previous tasks to discuss them later in the sessions in which doubts will be resolved and exercises will be carried out.
2. Evaluable classroom or Virtual Campus activities, individual or teamwork: Review exercises, reading controls, problem-solving, discussion of shared readings and guided debates will be conducted.
3. Autonomous individual or group work: preparation for the flipped classroom, writing works and preparation of presentations or debates that they will lead in front of the group.

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

### Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Individual and small group activities during the academic course	20	0.5	0.02	1, 2, 3
Midterm exam and final essay	50	2	0.08	1, 2, 4
Teamwork presentation	30	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4

Continuous assessment

a) A written test and the delivery of an essay: each with a weight of 25% of the final grade (total 50%). To pass the subject it is a requirement that the average of these instruments be a minimum of 5.

b) Activities carried out in the classroom or on the Virtual Campus: 20% of the final grade. To guarantee the involvement of students in the subject, as well as to preserve their educational sense, these activities are not recoverable, except exceptions agreed with the teaching staff.

c) Teamwork: 30% of the final grade. This evaluation will consider the presentation (15%) and the written work (15%). The assessment will be individual and self-assessment may be considered.

To approve the course, obtaining at least a 5 in the final grade is necessary. At the end of the course, a recovery test will be carried out for students who have failed the written test and have not exceeded the minimum average between the test and the essay. To participate in the recovery, students must have been previously evaluated in a set of activities whose weight is equivalent to a minimum of two-thirds of the total grade for the subject.

The grade 'Not evaluable' will be received as long as no more than 30% of the evaluation activities have been delivered.

At the time of carrying out each evaluation activity, the teaching staff will inform the students (Moodle) about the procedure and date for reviewing the grades.

If any irregularity is committed that could lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluation act, this evaluation act will be graded 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that may be instituted. In the event of several irregularities in the assessment activities of the same subject, the final grade for this subject will be 0.

#### Single evaluation

The single evaluation consists of a summary test that includes the contents of the entire theory program with a weight of 60%. On the sameday of this test, the exercises corresponding to the classroom practices will also be carried out with a weight of 20%. Before taking the test, an essay must be submitted 30 days in advance, on a topic agreed upon with the teaching staff, with a weight of 20%.

The same criteria regarding irregularities described in the continuous evaluation will be applied.

For the recovery, the same assessment method as for the continuous assessment will be used.

#### Revision of grades

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

#### Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

This subject allows the use of AI technologies as an integral part of the submitted work, provided that the final result reflects a significant contribution from the student in terms of analysis and personal reflection. The student must clearly (i) identify which parts have been generated using AI technology; (ii) specify the tools used; and (iii) include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and final outcome of the activity. Lack of transparency regarding the use of AI will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade may be lowered, or the work may even be awarded a zero. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

## Bibliography

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•<https://ine.es/>

## Software

This course does not require specific software.

## 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/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed