UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Planning of Rural and Mountain Areas

2026/2027

Code: 104263
Credits: 6

Degree programme	Type	Course
Geography, Environmental Management and Regional Planning	OP	4

Contact lecturer

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Group languages

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

Prerequisites

Have a good predisposition to walking, and above all enjoy it as a basis for getting to know a territory.

Be able to read with good reading comprehension and write fluently in Catalan and / or Spanish, clear grammatical constructions and without spelling mistakes.

Be able to understand a text in a foreign language (preferably English or French).

To undertake this course, you must have a proficiency in Catalan and/or Spanish at or above level B2.

Objectives

This is an elective course that can only be taken in the 4th year.

The objectives of the course are as follows:

- Describe and interpret the main physical and socio-economic processes that occur in the mountain environment. Approach at planetary, regional and local scale, with special emphasis on examples of the latter scale of study.

- Learn about the evolution of the Pyrenean landscape, as well as the keys to its transformation.

- Identify and analyze the main natural risks that affect mountain areas.

- Recognize the lifestyles of rural and mountain societies, as well as their main cultural and identity traits.

- Carry out field work and acquire direct knowledge of the territory.

- Explain territorial relations in an integrated way (general/specific; local/global; interrelationships with the environment; with the historical dimension; and with social, political, economic and cultural reality).

- Show spatial understanding of historical, economic, cultural and social phenomena.

- Acquire skills to work in a group with proper documentation management.

- Use geographic information as an instrument for interpreting the territory.

Learning outcomes

- KM32 (Describe the physical and socio-economic processes in mountain areas for the correct management of these spaces.) Describe the physical and socio-economic processes in mountain areas for the correct management of these spaces.
- KM34 (List the basic regional, environmental and urban regulations corresponding to each responsible administration, with reference to Catalonia.) List the basic regional, environmental and urban regulations corresponding to each responsible administration, with reference to Catalonia.
- SM26 (Evaluate mitigation and adaptation policies to global change processes.) Evaluate mitigation and adaptation policies to global change processes.

Contents

INTRODUCTION
- Mountain concept
- The mountains of the world

THE PHYSICAL MEANS
- Origin and structure of the mountains
- External processes related to climate and gravity
- Environmental conditions of mountain areas: the adaptation of the vegetation to the mountain environment

THE HUMAN WORLD
- Socio-economic dynamics in the mountains
- The construction of the landscape on the mountain
- Sorting of mountain areas

NATURAL RISKS
- Natural hazards in the mountains: Type, distribution, frequency and degree of danger.
- Risk mitigation: Exposure and vulnerability.
- Studies of specific cases that have affected the population related to avalanches, floods, landslides, landslides and debris flows.

STUDY OF A PRACTICAL CASE
- Description and analysis of a case study related to the physical and human environment of mountain areas or their associated risks.

In this subject, gender perspective will be taken into account in the following aspects:
- Not allowing a sexist use of language in the students' oral and written contributions.
- Writing, in the references, the full names of authors, instead of only the initial.

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Course work	10	0.4	KM32, KM34, SM26

Master class (TE)	15	0.6	KM32, KM34, SM26
Field trip (PCAM)	17	0.68	KM32, KM34, SM26
Tutorials	15	0.6	SM26
Study and personal work	30	1.2	KM32, KM34, SM26
Practical sessions (PAUL)	16.5	0.66	KM32, KM34, SM26
Preparation and presentation of works	45	1.8	KM32, KM34

The methodology of this course is based on the development of content through a compulsory field trip lasting four or five full days, which will take place at the beginning of the course. Prior to the field trip, students will be required to read and understand a set of introductory texts, which will be complemented by a preparatory lecture. At the start of the course, the teaching staff will explain the protocol of measures and best practices for fieldwork activities.

Subsequently, other learning activities will be carried out, including a limited number of lectures, personalized tutorials, and autonomous work, such as the study of specialized texts, the writing of a field trip report, as well as a group project that must be presented orally.

In this course, students are taught artificial intelligence tools for research and teamwork, as well as their responsible and ethical use.

The Faculty's Field Trip Protocol will be applied during all fieldwork activities. Students will be provided with specific safety documentation related to off-campus activities organized by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). It is the responsibility of each student to review and acknowledge this documentation prior to participating in any field activity.

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	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Theoretical exam	35%	1.5	0.06	KM32, KM34
Coursework	40%	0	0	KM32, SM26
Report to the field work	25%	0	0	KM32, SM26

- The theoretical exam is individual.

- The practical exercises must be of a collective nature (maximum 3 people) and consist of the elaboration of a coursework related to one of the topics discussed during the field trip, a work that must be presented orally in the classroom.

- The work related to the field exit will also be of a collective nature and consists in drafting a report from the notes taken during the field trip.

- The presentations of the works and the theoretical examination will be carried out at the end of the course in one or more sessions (depending on the number of groups to be exhibited).

- The theoretical exam and the field trip report will be eligible for retake, but the grade may be limited to a 5 if

deemed appropriate.

- Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 1/3 of the assessment items.

- In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Let's remember that a \"copy\" is considered a work that reproduces all or most of the work of one or more partners. \"Plagiarism\" is the fact of presenting all or part of an author's text as its own, without citing the

sources, whether in paper or in digital format.

- 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.

- The teaching methodology and the evaluation proposed in the guide may undergo some modification subject to the onsite teaching restrictionsimposed byhealth authorities. In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format

made available through the UAB's virtual tools (originalweighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

- *This subject/module does not incorporate single assessment.*

- In this course, the use of AI is restricted:

For this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks, such as bibliographic or information searches, text correction, or translations. When requested and when necessary, the student must clearly identify which parts have been generated with this technology, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and the final result of the activity. Non-transparency in the use of AI in this assessable activity will be considered academic dishonesty and may result in partial or total penalties in the activity grade, or more severe sanctions in serious cases.

Bibliography

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Software

Office and software of SIG avalaible in the classroom of computing services

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this link. To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(PCAM) Field practices	11	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(PCAM) Field practices	12	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed