

Degree programme	Type	Course
Environmental Sciences	FB	1

Contact lecturer

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Teaching staff

Giacomo D'Alisa

Teaching staff (external to UAB)

Àlex Boso

Group languages

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

Prerequisites

No prerequisites.

Objectives

The basic objective of this subject is to provide adequate knowledge of the main tools and concepts that have been

formulated in the social sciences for the study of the environment and the relationships between humans and the environment.

The fact that it is a first-year subject means that it has an introductory vocation and, therefore, the topics will focus on a small volume of basic but essential concepts to continue further training.

Specifically, the history and recent evolution of environmentalist social movements will be discussed.

The main theoretical models will be introduced to explain the relationships between environment and society, with special emphasis on the analysis of socio-environmental conflicts. The perspective of 'social metabolism' will be introduced.

An analysis will be made of the different study perspectives of the social perception of risk and its implications in

political, social and cultural terms.

Learning outcomes

- CM09 (Identify aspects related to ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and obligations, diversity and democratic values throughout the development of environmental projects.) Identify aspects related to ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and obligations, diversity and democratic values throughout the development of environmental projects.
- CM10 (Identify in the field of the environment the origin of potential inequalities based on sex/gender.) Identify in the field of the environment the origin of potential inequalities based on sex/gender.
- CM11 (Work independently when tackling problems and practical sociological cases from the environmental field.) Work independently when tackling problems and practical sociological cases from the environmental field.
- CM12 (Transmit the basic sociological information associated with an environmental problem to members of the general public appropriately.) Transmit the basic sociological information associated with an environmental problem to members of the general public appropriately.
- KM16 (Identify the basic relationship between the principles and foundations of Sociology and environmental processes.) Identify the basic relationship between the principles and foundations of Sociology and environmental processes.
- KM17 (Recognise the history and recent evolution of environmental movements.) Recognise the history and recent evolution of environmental movements.
- KM18 (Recognise the impact of human activities and behaviour on the environment.) Recognise the impact of human activities and behaviour on the environment.
- KM19 (Identify the main sociological dimensions of a global world.) Identify the main sociological dimensions of a global world.
- SM17 (Collect and analyse sociological data and observations related to the historical evolution of the relationships between nature, society (social theories and the environment) and culture.) Collect and analyse sociological data and observations related to the historical evolution of the relationships between nature, society (social theories and the environment) and culture.
- SM18 (Express yourself using language in line with fundamental sociological information, clearly, explicitly and briefly.) Express yourself using language in line with fundamental sociological information, clearly, explicitly and briefly.

Contents

1. Social challenges of the ecological transition

1.1 The environmental, political and social context

1.1.1 The context of the polycrisis

1.1.2 The progression of green policies

1.1.3 The mutations of social movements

2. The perspective of degrowth

2.1 Society metabolism

2.1.1 Biophysical component of social metabolism

2.1.2 Social component of social metabolism

2.1.3 Economic component of social metabolism

3. Society/Nature dualities

3.1. In what sense are society and nature different things?

3.2. The human claim to dominate/exploit nature

3.3. Conflicting relationships between technosphere and ecosphere.

3.4. Rethinking the role of humans in nature

4. Environmental risks and social inequalities

4.1. The unequal distribution of environmental risks and benefits

4.2. The treadmill of production

4.3. The risk society

4.4. Gender inequalities and ecofeminisms

5. Social perceptions of environmental risks

5.1. The concept of risk and socio-environmental conflicts

5.2. The study of risk perceptions according to different theoretical traditions

5.3. The debate on the precautionary principle.

5.4. Current debates on the management and perception of technological and environmental risks.

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Studying	65	2.6	CM09, CM10, CM12
Classroom problems	12	0.48	CM09, CM10, SM18
Tutorials	12	0.48	CM11, CM12, KM16
Theoretical lessons	38	1.52	KM18, KM19, SM17
Problem solving	23	0.92	CM12, KM16, KM17

The teaching staff will present an exposition of the main theoretical concepts and proposals in each study unit, as well as explaining specific cases that exemplify the different concepts studied.

It is intended to encourage debate/discussion on the topics covered.

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
Collective Essay 1	20%	0	0	CM09, CM10, CM11, CM12, SM17
Exam 2	30%	0	0	CM10, KM16, KM17, KM18, KM19, SM18
Collective Essay 2	20%	0	0	CM09, CM10, CM11, CM12, SM17
Exam 1	30%	0	0	CM10, KM16, KM17, KM18, KM19, SM18

Evaluation

The evaluation will consist of: a) THEORETICAL PART: 60% of the total grade. Written exam on the contents of the program. b) CASE STUDY: 40% of the total grade. Group analysis of a socio-environmental conflict. The student's grade will be the average of the two previous activities.

To pass the subject, you must obtain a minimum grade of 5 in both evidences.

If the student has only been evaluated for a maximum of 25% of the tests and leaves, the final grade will be NON-ASSESSABLE.

Recovery If the exam grade does not reach 5, the student has another opportunity to pass the subject through the retrieval exam that will be held on the date set by the degree coordinator.

In this test you can recover 60% of the grade corresponding to the theory.

If the subject is suspended for not having passed the case study, the teaching team may enable a retrieval mechanism for this part of the grade.

Unique assessment

Students who have accepted the single assessment modality will have to take a final test that will consist of a theory exam where they will have to develop a topic and answer a series of short questions.

Then you will have to hand in an assignment where you will have to solve a case study similar to those worked on in the Classroom Practice sessions.

The student's grade will be the weighted average of the two previous activities, where the theory exam will account for 60% of the grade and the case study 40%.

If the final grade does not reach 5, the student has another opportunity to pass the subject through the retrieval exam that will be held on the date set by the degree coordinator.

In this test you can recover 60% of the grade corresponding to the theory.

If the subject is suspended for not having passed the case study, the teaching team may enable a retrieval mechanism for this part of the grade.

In this subject, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is allowed as an integral part of the development of the work, provided that the final result reflects a significant contribution of the student in the analysis and personal reflection. 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. The lack of transparency in the use of AI will be considered a lack of academic honesty and may lead to a penalty in the grade of the activity, or greater sanctions in serious cases.

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Software

No specific software required.

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/Spanish	second semester	afternoon
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	afternoon
(PAUL) Classroom	2	Catalan/Spanish	second	afternoon

