UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Interdisciplinary Concepts of Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability: Scientific Communication and Dissemination

Code: 45782
Credits: 3

2026/2027

Degree programme	Type	Course
Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability	OB	1

Contact lecturer

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Group languages

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

Prerequisites

On the first day of this course, students should certify at least a B2 level in English language.

Objectives

This is an interdisciplinary subject and aims to achieve that all master's students have the chance to be introduced to some aspects of dissemination (in academic or scientific institutions) and communication (beyond universities or research centres) of projects on sustainability, offering some basic concepts and tools.

This is an on-site subject, both in the theoretical-conceptual part and the practical part. In this latter part, students will be organised in two sub-groups and some practical questions related to dissemination and communication will be put into practice, which may help to develop abilities that are potentially useful at academic, professional or communitarian levels. This usefulness can be related, for instance, to the oral presentation of the master's thesis (TFM) or other activities of academic dissemination. In addition, this course can help to communicate aspects of science to society as a whole in order to put it into value (science as solution to human problems) and, more concretely, for the (oral) presentation of scientific projects to business companies or social and environmental associations to obtain support or collaboration.

Learning outcomes

- CA06 (Effectively communicate research results and environmental management strategies to expert and amateur audiences by adopting a critical and inclusive approach.) Effectively communicate research results and environmental management strategies to expert and amateur audiences by adopting a critical and inclusive approach.
- CA07 (Demonstrate ethical responsibility in scientific communication and dissemination on environmental, economic and social sustainability.) Demonstrate ethical responsibility in scientific communication and dissemination on environmental, economic and social sustainability.
- KA06 (Define the theories, concepts and resources of scientific communication and the dissemination of

science in environmental studies.) Define the theories, concepts and resources of scientific communication and the dissemination of science in environmental studies.
- KA07 (Define ethical principles in the communication and dissemination of scientific information.) Define ethical principles in the communication and dissemination of scientific information.
- SA07 (Produce clear and accurate scientific texts in the field of environmental studies, adapted to different formats and purposes of academic publication.) Produce clear and accurate scientific texts in the field of environmental studies, adapted to different formats and purposes of academic publication.
- SA08 (Design effective oral presentations on sustainability issues for specialised academic audiences.) Design effective oral presentations on sustainability issues for specialised academic audiences.
- SA09 (Use digital tools and platforms to share and exchange scientific knowledge.) Use digital tools and platforms to share and exchange scientific knowledge.
- SA10 (Autonomously use resources and methodologies for scientific communication and dissemination in the field of sustainability.) Autonomously use resources and methodologies for scientific communication and dissemination in the field of sustainability.

Contents

- Conceptual introduction to scientific communication and dissemination
- Approach to writing academic texts: the case of the (màster's) thesis
- Overview of some means for scientific communication and dissemination: associations, networks, books, articles, videos, audios, films, stand-up comedy, games, theatre, maps, atlases, GIS...
- Ideas for prepararing oral presentations for communication and dissemination of projects on sustainabilities
- The PowerPoint as technical support element in oral presentations devoted to scientific communication and dissemination
- The theatre as example of practical art that can contribute to scientific communication and dissemination

The classes include general training activities on concepts and resources for communication and scientific dissemination as well as more specific activities linked to the following projects: on the one hand, with the interdisciplinary project in teams composed by several students; on the other hand, with the individual master's thesis project (TFM) or another relevant project agreed with the professor.

The types of training activities included are the following: 1) reading books and articles as well as watching audiovisual products; 2) brief writing and design for scientific communication and dissemination; 3) academic debates and oral presentations with the support of PowerPoint and other tools. Students will be encouraged to link both their collective and individual oral presentations with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda and other ways of putting sustainability into value.

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Exercices, debates, performances, visits or oral presentations	12	0.48	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA10
Tutorships	0.5	0.02	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA10
Theoretical and conceptual lectures	6	0.24	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08
Information search and preparation of activities	23	0.92	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07,

			SA08, SA09, SA10
Work on PowerPoints amd scripts for oral presentations and/or theatre performance	8	0.32	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA10
Readings (books, articles or documents) and personal study	24	0.96	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA10

Dates and distribution by group/subgroups on campus:

- Full group for more theoretical and conceptual lectures: 5 and 12 March 2027 -> 15h-18h.
- Subgroup A for more practical classes (surnames from A to L): 19 March as well as 2, 9 and 30 April 2027 -> 10h - 13h.
- Subgroup B for more practical classes (surnames from M to Z): 19 March as well as 2, 9 and 30 April 2027 -> 15h - 18h.

Calendar of main activities:

March 5: Initial introduction to (research) communication and academic dissemination + brief individual exercise 1 on some conceptual distinctions.

March 12: Additional contents (and debates) on science communication and academic dissemination + individual exercise 2 on communication-dissemination strategy and sponsorship.

March 19: Session on the road towards oral presentations + collective exercise 3a (preparation of analogue PowerPoint as draft for digital PowerPoint)

April 2: Collective oral presentations with digital PowerPoint (PPT) support and submission of the final collective PPT on the virtual campus (Exercise 3b)

April 9: Individual oral presentations in 4 minutes with digital PPT support and submission of the individual PPT on the virtual campus

April 30: Collective theatrical micro-performances of research projects.

Dates for on-site exams:

Written evaluation exam: 28 May 2027 -> 15h-17h.

Written recovery exam: 11 June 2027 -> 15h-17h.

As this is a 100% face-to-face course, both consultations and tutorials (individual or group) will be conducted in person, either in the classroom during scheduled teaching hours or in the teaching staff's office during the office hours published on the Virtual Campus during the first week of classes. Communication by email or telephone will only be accepted in cases of force majeure or when specifically requested by the teaching staff.

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
Individual oral presentation with PowerPoint support	25	0	0	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA10
Collective theatrical micro-performance on a research project	9	0	0	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA10
In-class exercises	15	0	0	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA10
Attendance and active participation in class	6	0	0	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA10
Written exam on site, including a conceptual part and a practical part	45	1.5	0.06	CA06, CA07, KA06, KA07, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA10

All assignments and exams must be submitted with great care and with flawless presentation. Every assessment must include proper in-text citation of all information and data sources, together with a complete bibliography. Students must clearly distinguish their own opinions from factual information or data, which must always be traceable and verifiable. The citation guidelines of the journal *Documents d'Anàlisi Geogràfica* are recommended: https://dag.revista.uab.cat/about/submissions Marks may be deducted for spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, or language mixing.

The voices and images of teaching staff and students may not be recorded at any time or in any format without prior permission. Unauthorized recording may constitute a criminal offence and may also result in academic penalties.

For any assessment activity, students must bring their national ID card (DNI/NIE), physical passport, or a printed UAB student card including a photograph. Written examinations must be completed using permanent ink pens (not pencil), and students are encouraged to bring pens of different colours (without a pencil case). During examinations, electronic devices, notes, or any other supporting materials should be put away from students (e.g. on the professor's table or on the floor). Hooded students can be asked to uncover their heads and then students must immediately do it. Glasses must be conventional (non-electronic) and should not be sunglasses. Students must arrive punctually for all assessment activities.

If a practical activity takes place in the classroom or elsewhere on campus, attendance on that day is compulsory. Some activities may require students to bring specific materials (such as coloured pencils, markers, or erasers) or appropriate clothing and footwear for fieldwork.

Students requiring accommodations due to illness or other serious circumstances must provide an approved PIUNE report and/or an official medical certificate with a validated electronic signature in advance.

At the time of each assessment activity, the teaching staff will inform students about the procedure and date for

the in-person review of grades.

International and domestic exchange students: students requesting an early examination must submit, sufficiently in advance, an official document from their home institution justifying the request and including a validated electronic signature.

SINGLE ASSESSMENT

This course does not offer a single-assessment option.

REASSESSMENT

To be eligible for reassessment, students must have completed assessment activities accounting for at least two-thirds of the continuous assessment.

Students must have obtained a minimum overall average mark of 3.5 out of 10 before being eligible for reassessment, in accordance with Article 261.3 of the UAB Academic Regulation.

In this course, only written examinations are expected to be eligible for reassessment.

NOT ASSESSED

Students will receive the grade "Not Assessed" if they have not submitted assessment activities accounting for more than one-third of the final course grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Copying or plagiarism in assignments, practical work, or examinations constitutes academic misconduct and will result in a grade of 0 for the relevant assessment. Repeated offences will result in failure of the entire course.

Copying refers to reproducing all or part of another student's or author's work. Plagiarism consists of presenting all or part of another author's work as one's own without proper acknowledgement, whether the source is printed or digital. UAB guidance on plagiarism is available at: https://webs.uab.cat/cal/wp-content/uploads/sites/211/2025/11/Evitar-el-plagi_1.pdf

Any irregularity that may significantly affect the assessment of an activity will result in a grade of 0 for that activity, with no possibility of reassessment, regardless of any disciplinary proceedings. If multiple irregularities occur within the same course, the final course grade will be 0.

Professors may permit the restricted use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, exclusively for bibliographic or

information searches, preliminary language revision, or translation tasks related to certain practical assignments. Since generative AI may produce errors or hallucinations, students remain fully responsible for all submitted work. Whenever AI use is explicitly authorised, students must:

1. identify the sections generated using AI;
2. specify the AI tools used; and
3. include a critical reflection explaining how AI influenced both the working process and the final outcome.

Failure to disclose the use of AI will be considered academic misconduct and will result in a grade of 0 for the activity, with no possibility of reassessment, as well as potentially more severe disciplinary sanctions in serious cases. Any assessment in which fraud or improper use of AI is detected is not eligible for reassessment.

Bibliography

*Abbott, Stephen (2023) *The Proof Stage. How Theatre Reveals the Human Truth of Mathematics*, Princeton & Oxford: Princeton University Press. see: https://bibcercador.uab.cat/permalink/34CSUC_UAB/rokuu2/cdi_crossref_primary_10_3138_md_67_3_rev1

*Boncori, Ilaria (2023) *Researching and Writing Differently*. Bristol, UK: Policy Press. See: https://bibcercador.uab.cat/permalink/34CSUC_UAB/1eqfv2p/alma991010817743806709

*Bradbury, Ray (1994) *Zen in the Art of Writing*, London: Harper. See: https://bibcercador.uab.cat/permalink/34CSUC_UAB/1fbc57r/alma991010704135506709

*Eco, Umberto (2015) *How to Write a Thesis*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA: MIT Press. See: https://bibcercador.uab.cat/permalink/34CSUC_UAB/avjcib/alma991010481837706709

*Freiermuth, Mark R. (2023) *Academic Conference Presentations: A Step-By-Step Guide*, London: Springer. See: https://bibcercador.uab.cat/permalink/34CSUC_UAB/1c3utr0/cdi_proquest_ebookcentral_EBC7168715

*Hsu, Hua (2015) A Guide to Thesis Writing that is a Guide to Life, *The New Yorker*, April 6, see: https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/a-guide-to-thesis-writing-that-is-a-guide-to-life

*Montenegro, Mário; Matos Oliveira, Fernando; Girão da Cruz, M. Teresa; Varela Amaral, Sara & Moreira, Francisca (coord.) (2024) *Theatre About Science. Theory and Practice,* Coimbra: Coimbra University Press. See: https://bibcercador.uab.cat/permalink/34CSUC_UAB/1fbc57r/alma991011336301706709

*Pullen, Alison; Helin, Jenny & Harding, Nancy (2020) *Writing Differently*, Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing Limited. See: https://bibcercador.uab.cat/permalink/34CSUC_UAB/1eqfv2p/alma991010496454506709

*Shepherd-Barr, Kristen E. (ed.) (2020) *The Cambridge Companion to Theatre and Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. See: https://bibcercador.uab.cat/permalink/34CSUC_UAB/1fbc57r/alma991010351668006709

Some social network accounts on scientific communication:

@becausesizematters

@ladyscienceofficial

@lagatadeschrodinger

Software

PowerPoint, Excel, Word, MapMaker

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
(TEm) Theory (master)	1	English	second semester	afternoon
(PAULm) Classroom practices (master)	1	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAULm) Classroom practices (master)	2	English	second semester	morning-mixed