COURSE DATA

Data Subject	
Code	35004
Name	Productive Activity and the Environment
Cycle	Grade
ECTS Credits	6.0
Academic year	2022 - 2023

Study (s)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Faculty of Geography and History	3	Second term

Subject-matter

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	616 - Productive activity and the environment	Obligatory

Coordination

Name	Department
MELO ESCRIHUELA, CARMEN	195 - Geography

SUMMARY

The course Productive Activities and the Environment deals with the relationship between the different productive sectors and activities and the environment. The main goal is to raise student's awareness about the impacts that the different productive activities, and the model of economic development they promote, have on the environment. Hence some of the main environmental problems related to productive activities will be analyzed, namely those related to agriculture, farming, industries and services, such as resource depleition, deforestation, biodiversity loss, species extinction, waste, consumption and climate change. But beyond a focus on problems, the course aims at equipping students with the tools needed to critically reflect on alternative and sustainable models of production and consumption, and the transition towards an ecological and ethical paradigm.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Relationship to other subjects of the same degree

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

Other requirements

There are no specific restrictions. Nevertheless, students are encouraged to revise environmental basic concepts and those courses on environment and sustainable development attended on previous years.

OUTCOMES

1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment

- Have capacity for analysis and synthesis.
- Have skills for organisation, planning, management and assessment.
- Have oral and written communication skills in one's own language and in a foreign language.
- Have problem-solving skills and decision-making capacity. Be able to design and manage projects.
- Be able to work independently.
- Be able to work in interdisciplinary teams.
- Have skills for interpersonal relations and ability to adapt to complex situation.
- Show commitment to the values of gender equality, interculturality, equal opportunities, universal access for people with disabilities, the culture of peace, democratic values and solidarity.
- Be able to learn independently and show creativity, initiative and entrepreneurship. Be able to resolve unforeseen situations.
- Show motivation for quality, responsibility and intellectual honesty.
- Have research skills.
- Be able to communicate effectively with non-experts.
- Learn about the time and space dimensions in the explanation of social, territorial and environmental processes.
- Learn about territorial and environmental management. Be able to integrate the social, economic and environmental components under the sustainable development approach.
- Participate in the design and implementation of environmental policies, as well as in the evaluation of the environmental impact of projects, plans and programmes.
- Acquire basic knowledge for analysing and interpreting environmental risks and for participating in risk prevention plans.
- Acquire basic knowledge for analysing and diagnosing public policies related to the geographical aspects of the environment.

- Be able to relate the natural environment and the social and human spheres.
- Analyse and value landscapes from a spatial-temporal perspective.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Recognize the complexity of relationships between productive activities and the environment
- Analyze the effects of socio-economic systems on the environment
- Study the structure of productive sectors
- Understand environment problems caused by productive activities and economic development
- Reflect on alternative productive models, in line with the objectives of environmental sustainability
- Gain skills related to the evaluation and environmental impact assessment of productive activities
- Learn environmental basic concepts

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction: society, economy and environment

- Socio-economic systems: effects on the environment
- Economic activity and resource use

2. Productive activity: structure of productive sectors

- Agriculture
- Industry
- Services

3. Economic development and the environment

- Environmental impacts of economic growth
- Ecology and ecologism
- Economic development, sustainable development and sustainability
- Productivism, consumption and consumerism

4. Environmental problems related to productive activities

- Agriculture, farming and environment
- Effects of industrial activities
- Bussiness and nature
- Analysis of specific problems (water, deforestation, biodiversity loss, waste, climate change)

5. Alternative production models: towards a new ecological paradigm

- Organic agriculture
- Sustainable production: reduction of resource use or technological efficiency?
- Sustainable consumption: green consumerism versus reduction of consumption
- Ethical and sustainable businesses

WORKLOAD

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Theory classes	30,00	100
Other activities	15,00	100
Classroom practices	15,00	100
Development of group work	20,00	0
Development of individual work	20,00	0
Study and independent work	20,00	0
Readings supplementary material	10,00	0
Preparing lectures	10,00	0
Preparation of practical classes and problem	10,00	0
TOTAL	**150,00**	

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

- Participatory lectures: for the different subjects to be explained. Through individual work and active participation, students will develop autonomous learning skills.

- Practical sessions: the aim will be to read and discuss articles, analyze case studies and do individual and group exercises.

- Seminars: to stimulate debate and reflection on the basis of journal articles, media articles or documentaries.

- Tutorials: for questions and doubts related to the conceptual parts of the course as well as to practical matters.

- Additional activities: exhibitions, fieldwork or conferences and seminars.

NON-ATTENDING ACTIVITIES:

- Preparation of lectures: this is the student's daily work in order to gain further information through basic bibliography and additional readings.

- Practical assignments: individual and group exercises such as text analysis, case studies, project design, research on different sources (web, media, etc) or report writing.

- Preparation of seminars: reading and interpreting academic articles or texts for classroom discussion and working on presentations.

EVALUATION

The final grade will take into account the student's individual and group work, attendance and active participation, according to the following criteria:

40% Written examination in the date agreed by the Faculty. Both subject knowledge and writing skills will be evaluated.

30% Essay related to the complementary activities.

30% Practical activities. This includes participation in and preparation of seminars and written exercises.

REFERENCES

Basic

- Ballesteros, J. i Pérez Adán, J. (eds): (2000): Sociedad y medio ambiente. Madrid: Trotta.
- Carpintero, O. (1999): Entre la economía y la naturaleza. Madrid: Libros de la Catarata.
- De Cuerdo, M. i Ramos, J.L. (1999): Economía y naturaleza: una historia de las ideas. Madrid: Síntesis.
- Naredo, J.M. i Valero, A. (dirs.) (1999): Desarrollo económico y deterioro ecológico. Visor.
- Baker, S. (2006): Sustainable Development. London: Routledge.

Additional

- Azkarraga Etxagibel, J. i Altuna, L. (2012): Cooperativismo, economía solidaria y paradigma ecológico. Una aproximación conceptual, Ecología Política, 44: 33-41.
- Carpintero, O. (2005): El metabolismo de la economía española. Madrid: Fundación César Manrique. http://www.fcmanrique.org/recursos/publicacion/elmetabolismo.pdf
- García Delgado, J. L. i Myro, R. (2013): Lecciones de economía española. Cizur Menor (Navarra): Thomson-Aranzadi.
- Gómez-Baggethun, E. (2012): Economía verde o la mistificación del conflicto entre crecimiento económico y límites ecológicos, Ecología Política, 44: 51-58.
- Ramos Gorostiza, J. L. (2005): Medio natural y pensamiento económico: historia de un reencuentro, Principios, 2: 47-70.
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