

Academic Year: (2023 / 2024)

Review date: 28-04-2023

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: MAYORAL DIAZ-ASENSIO, JUAN ANTONIO

Type: Electives ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : Semester :

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

Non specific one.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

WEEK 1. Introduction. A historical perspective of environmental challenges. Human activity and the ecosystem. Climate Change and the Anthropocene.

WEEK 2. Industrial exploitation and the global ecological crisis. Loss of biodiversity. Mass extinction of living species at the planetary level. Forestry and the problem of logging and illegal logging.

WEEK 3. Environmental degradation, climate change and global governance: actors, causes and consequences. A brief history of global environmental meetings: from the Rio summit to the Paris agreement. Decision making in climate negotiations.

WEEK 4. Climate justice and human rights. Climate change as a social issue: social inequality, women and indigenous peoples.

WEEK 5. Impacts of climate change on conflicts, migration and health.

WEEK 6. 2030 Agenda and Sustainable development Goals. Is another type of development possible? The welfare state and its role to face climate change.

WEEK 7. Cities, urbanism and climate action. From linear economy to circular economy.

WEEK 8. Technology transfer and climate negotiations. How can technical solutions be extended in developing countries, what needs to be done?. Climate change, agriculture and food security.

WEEK 9. Business and international environmental governance. Greenwashing and global corporate social responsibility.

WEEK 10. The Role of the European Union in global climate action. The European Green Deal.

WEEK 11. Uncertainty in climate science. How can a society collapse? Demographics and climate change.

WEEK 12. New and transformative narratives for climate action. Intergenerational justice: the role of youth and older people on climate action.

WEEK 13. Why we need more social science and international studies research on climate change?

WEEK 14. Conclusions.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

The course will provide the theoretical and empirical foundations for understanding the major environmental challenges facing humanity. The lectures and seminars are designed to be very dynamic and the active participation of students is encouraged. The tasks that students will undertake range from short quizzes or questions in class; the presentation and discussion of texts; the identification of problems, causes, effects, consequences and impact of policies; and the proposal and defense of political positions.

Students will be expected to read the assigned readings and prepare for class discussions. Discussion groups will be an important part of the course and their final grade. This is a practical course and attendance at all lectures, seminars and discussions is expected.

There will be office hours every week although it is recommended to confirm them with the professor via email.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The final grade will be determined by two elements. All in-class assignments and the presentation will determine 60% of the final grade. The final exam will determine 40% of the final grade.

To successfully complete the course, students are expected to:

- Reading the required texts.
- Participating actively in the Seminar sessions (15% of the overall grade).
- Presenting and/or leading a discussion on the basis of one or several texts. This assignment will be 25% of the final grade
- Additionally, students have to submit a paper or essay. Each essay has to be coauthored by two students and represents the 20% of the overall grade.
- There will be a final exam to complete the evaluation of the course. It will amount to 40% of the overall grade.

Extraordinary evaluation system: written exam based on all course topics.

% end-of-term-examination:	40
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):	60

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Jeffrey Sachs The Age of Sustainable Development , Columbia University Press, 2015
- Kate O'Neill the Environment and International Relations. , Cambridge University Press, 2017
- Pamela S. Chasek Global Environmental Politics, Routledge, 2016
- Simon Nicholson and Sikina Jinnah New Earth Politics: Essays from the Anthropocene, MIT Press, 2016

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Axelrod, Regina S., Leonard Downie, David and J. Vig, Norman The global environment: institutions, law and policy, CQ Press, 2014
- Sosa-Nunez, G. y Atkins, Ed Environment, Climate Change and International Relations, E-International Relations Publishing, 2016

BASIC ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

- European Union . Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development : <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>
- Garrett Hardin . The Tragedy of the Commons: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/162/3859/1243.full.pdf>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) . AR5 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2014: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights . Understanding Human Rights and Climate Change: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/COP21.pdf>
- Paul J. Crutzen . Geology of mankind: <https://www.nature.com/articles/415023a>
- Paul J. Crutzen . Geology of mankind: <https://www.nature.com/articles/415023a>
- The Lancet . The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: <https://www.thelancet.com/countdown-health-climate>
- UK Government Office for Science . Migration and Global Environmental Change: Future Challenges and Opportunities: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/287717/11-1116-migration-and-global-environmental-change.pdf
- UNITED NATIONS . UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>
- United Nations . Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development : <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>
- United Nations Task Team on Social Dimensions of Climate Change . The Social Dimensionsof Climate Change: <https://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/2011/social-dimensions-of-climate-change.pdf?ua=1>
- nited Nations Task Team on Social Dimensions of Climate Change . The Social Dimensionsof Climate Change: <https://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/2011/social-dimensions-of-climate-change.pdf?ua=1>