

COURSE SYLLABUS

Academic year 2013-2014

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Degree: | Geography and History |
| Double Degree: | |
| Course: | Physical Geography |
| Module: | Geography |
| Department: | Geography, History and Philosophy |
| Term: | 1 |
| Total Credits: | 6 |
| Year: | 2 |
| Type of Course: | Compulsory |
| Course Language: | English |

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| Teaching model: | C1 | |
| a. General/background: | | 50% |
| b. Theory-into-practice/developmental knowledge-building | | 50% |
| c. Guided Academic Activities: | | |

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2. COURSE COORDINATOR

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|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Name: | Dr. Gonzalo Malvárez |
| Faculty: | Humanities |
| Department: | Geography, History and Philosophy |
| Academic Area: | Physical Geography |
| Position: | Senior Lecturer |
| Office hours: | Monday to Wednesday 11:00 14:00 |
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3. ACADEMIC CONTEXT

3.1. Course Description and Objectives

This course presents a basic knowledge of elements that define the Natural Environment and the processes that take place in it in the following groups of disciplines:

- Geomorphology
- Climatology
- Biogeography

As a general objective this course aims to present and explore the relationships between the various natural processes that take place in different temporal and spatial scales.

A secondary objective is to familiarise students with various common physical geography research methodologies.

3.2. Contribution to the Training Plan

Physical Geography is one of the pillars of the discipline in Geography

3.3. Recommendations or Prerequisites

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4. COMPETENCES

4.1 Degree Competences Developed during this Course

1. Development of linguistic competence in Spanish and in English.
2. Capacity to deal with complex systems.
3. Scientific and rigorous data management.
5. Team work, with respect for diversity and collaborative spirit.
6. Autonomous and creative thinking and work practices.
7. Information search, retrieval and management in an autonomous and rigorous context.
8. Responsible work practices and awareness of plagiarism and copyright.
9. Application of democratic and equalitarian work ethics.
10. Environmental and Social justice awareness.

4.2. Module Competences Developed during this Course

19. Knowledge of working methods in Geography.
20. Use of Geographic information as a tool for territorial and spatial planning.
21. Develop relationships to manage spatial information in complex systems.
22. Present findings of geographical study with clarity.
23. Introduce the main research methods in Geography.

4.3. Course-specific Competences

20. Use of Geographic information as a tool for territorial and spatial planning.
23. Introduce the main research methods in Geography.

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5. COURSE CONTENT (COURSE TOPICS)

Topic 1: Concepts and methods in Physical Geography. Systems and Scales.

Topic 2: The Climate as a System: Structure and Composition of Earth's Atmosphere.

Topic 3: Atmospheric circulation. Pressure and Air Masses.

Topic 4: The water cycle. Water as a natural resource.

Topic 5: Landforms and geomorphological processes. Rocks and Minerals. Structure and dynamics of the Earth (including Plate Tectonics).

Topic 6: Fluvial processes; Coastal and Marine processes; The complexity of transitional environments.

Topic 7: Soils: Development, evolution and degradational processes.

Topic 8: Main methodologies in Physical Geography

- Modelling
- Empirical methods
- Future Scenarios and Global Change

6. METHODOLOGY AND RESOURCES

This course is taught through a blend of classroom lectures and seminars, field and laboratory work and an on-line virtual classroom containing a wealth of tools and resources.

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7. ASSESSMENT

Class attendance and participation: 30%

Theory exam: 40 %

Practicals (essays and field and laboratory work): 30%

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

GUILERA ARILLA, M. J ; BORDERÍAS URIBEONDO, M.P. ; GONZÁLEZ YANCI, M. ; SANTOS PRECIADO, J. M. Ejercicios Prácticos de Geografía Física. Editorial: Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia. 1ª ed., 12ª ed. 680 páginas;

Doerr, A.H. 1990. Fundamentals of Physical Geography. Dubuque, Brown, 378 pp.

López Bermúdez, F., Rubio, J.M. y Cuadrat, J.M. 1992. Geografía Física. Madrid, Cátedra, 594 pp.

Roselló, V.M., Panareda, J.M. y Pérez, A. 1994. Geografía Física, Valencia, Universitat de València, 438 pp.

Strahler, A.N. 2005: Geografía Física. Barcelona : Omega, 2005

Tarback, E., Lutgens, F. y Tasa, D. 2009. Earth. An Introduction to Physical Geology: International Edition. Oxford University Press, 657 pp.