

COURSE SYLLABUS

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

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

2.2. Course coordinator	
Name:	Dr. Gonzalo Malvárez
Faculty:	Humanities
Department:	Geography, History and Philosophy
Academic Area:	Physical Geography
Position:	Senior Lecturer
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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. SKILLS

4.1 Degree Skills Developed during this Course

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

4.2. Module Skills Developed during this Course

Specific skills – Discipline

19. Being able to identify, organise and appropriately use sources of information for the study and research in history and/or geography.
21. Knowing the conceptual foundations of geography and its techniques and basic tools for obtaining and processing geographical information.
22. To know, understand and interpret the territory.
23. Ability to analyse and synthesise facts and processes that befall and form a territory, which allow the understanding and interpretation of the landscape's heterogeneity, as well as the consequences in the natural, social, economic or landscape level.

Specific skills – Professional

43. Knowledge of working methods in Geography.
44. Present findings of geographical study with clarity.
45. Introduce the main research methods in Geography.
46. Use of Geographic information as a tool for territorial and spatial planning.
48. Relate and systematize cross geographic information for sophisticated analysis.

Specific skills – Academic

58. Exercise study and training with a high sense of responsibility for one's own efforts and seeking the quality and rigor.
63. Generate awareness and interest in territorial, environmental and heritage issues. Develop self-criticism capacity to think and make judgments independently, increasing the critical capacity to understand and question the world and its problems and encourage reflection on values as well as a favorable attitude towards peace and towards dialogue among civilizations.

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4.3. Course-specific Skills

- 24. Understand the geographic diversity from the different approaches of this discipline, combining a general analysis with a specialized analysis.
- 26. Interrelate the physical and the social environmental and human.
- 27. Interrelate phenomena to different territorial scales.
- 29. Understand spatial relationships

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

Lectures (face-to-face sessions) and Practical (both field and lab based) for direct field recognition, ground truthing and empirical measurements.

Use of virtual teaching platform for content access, bibliographic resources and communication.

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7. ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment System through class attendance and participation or tests during the teaching period: 30%

Written exam of Theory and Practicals: 70%

In response to the provisions of Article 8.2.c of the “Normativa de Evaluación de los Estudiantes de Grado”, the student may resign voluntarily and expressly to the qualifications obtained during the course, to undergo a complete evaluation of the subject.

Important:

1. Under current legislation, plagiarism and misuse of information sources will be penalised with failing grade, without prejudice that administrative sanctions may be taken against offenders.
2. To pass the course students should express themselves orally and in writing with property, consistency and respecting the spelling rules.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Guilera Arilla, M. J ; Borderías Uribeondo, M.P. ; González Yanci, M. ; Santos Preciado, J. M. Ejercicios Practicos 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.

Rosselló, 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:



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International Edition. Oxford University Press, 657 pp.