

Course guide

480041 - CSCS - Fundamentals of Social Sciences and Approaches to Socio-Environmental Conflicts

Last modified: 22/05/2025

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Civil Engineering
Teaching unit: 751 - DECA - Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
Degree: MASTER'S DEGREE IN SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Syllabus 2013). (Compulsory subject).

Academic year: 2025 **ECTS Credits:** 5.0 **Languages:** Catalan, Spanish, English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: MIRIAM VILLARES JUNYENT

Others: ELISABET ROCA BOSCH

PRIOR SKILLS

REQUIREMENTS

DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

Specific:

1. The ability to design, develop and apply, in an integrated and coordinated manner, the theories and analytical techniques of the social, economic and Earth sciences, as well as management and research-action techniques and approaches based on sustainability science and technology in the fields of biodiversity and natural resources, the built environment and services, and production systems and information.
 2. The ability to coordinate, plan, develop and assess sustainable development programmes and sustainability strategies by identifying and fostering the capacities of participants, and considering the local, national, European and international organisations, strategies and policies involved.
 3. The ability to apply knowledge of societies' evolution, their impact on the environment, urban transition and the principal defining characteristics of present-day societies, as well as techniques and lessons related to socio-environmental conflict.
- CE11. The ability to develop advanced approaches to analysing and assessing the sustainability of the built environment, including buildings, infrastructure and transport, which minimise their impact, and to choose the most appropriate options in agreement with one or more of the economic, social and environmental principles of sustainability.

Generical:

CG03. The ability to analyze, evaluate and synthesize, critically, new and complex ideas and promote, within academic and professional, scientific, technological, social or cultural knowledge society contexts.

CG04. Describe, resolve, prevent and / or alleviate the problems and dysfunctions associated with the processes of development of environmental socio-economic systems with their own approaches to science and technologies of sustainability.

Transversal:

CT3. TEAMWORK: Being able to work in an interdisciplinary team, whether as a member or as a leader, with the aim of contributing to projects pragmatically and responsibly and making commitments in view of the resources that are available.

Basic:

CB6. Knowledge and understanding to provide a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and app ideas, often within a research context.

CB7. That students can apply their knowledge and ability to solve problems in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field d'study.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The development of the subject the following teaching methodologies will be applied:

Master class or conference (EXP): presentation of knowledge by the faculty through master classes or by external persons through invited conferences.

Case study (RP): collective resolution of exercises, conducting debates and group dynamics, with the teacher or other students in the classroom; presentation in the classroom of an activity carried out individually or in groups.

Theoretical - practical directed work (TD): realization of an activity or exercise of a theoretical and practical nature, in small groups, with the advice of the teacher in the classroom.

Project, activity or work (PR): learning based on group realization, of a work of certain complexity and extension, applying knowledge and presenting results.

Evaluation Activities (EV)

Formation activities:

In the development of the subject the following formative activities will be applied:

Attendance

Theoretical classes and conferences (CTC): know, understand and synthesize the knowledge exposed by the teaching staff in the lectures or by the lecturers.

Practical classes (CP): participate in the collective resolution of exercises, as well as in debates and group dynamics, with the faculty and the rest of the students in the classroom.

Tutorials of theoretical and / or practical work (TD): perform in the classroom an activity or exercise of a theoretical or practical nature, individually or in a small group, with the advice of the teaching staff.

Non-contact

Accomplishment of an activity or work of reduced scope (PR): to develop, individually or in group, a work of reduced complexity or extension, applying knowledge and presenting results.

Autonomous study (EA): study or expand the contents of the subject individually or in groups, understanding, assimilating, analyzing and synthesizing knowledge

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

Generic Objective: To provide tools and methods of social analysis to evaluate the effects that plans and projects provoke in the territory and, consequently, on society, its activities and ways of life.

Learning results

At the end of the subject, the student:

Develops and applies concepts, theories and analysis techniques of social sciences and humanities, and of investigation-action techniques with originality, identifying and formulating hypotheses or innovative ideas and subjecting them to proof of objectivity, coherence and viability.

Knows and understands the characteristics of the social sciences and the humanities that facilitate and frame the management of socio-environmental conflicts, the evolution of societies and their impact on the environment, as well as on urban transition and the main defining features of today's society.

Efficiently obtain, treat and analyze statistical and cartographic information referring to demographic phenomena and territorial dynamics.

Has the ability to apply foresight, foresight and retrospection in scenario analysis

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours small group	6,7	5.36
Hours medium group	10,0	7.99
Self study	88,4	70.66
Hours large group	20,0	15.99

Total learning time: 125.1 h

CONTENTS

((ENG) 1. Introduction. Evolution of the relationship between society and its surroundings. Transition towards an urban and technological society. Impacts and environmental crisis.

Description:

History of human ecology Socio-environmental impacts and social metabolism. The roots of the global environmental crisis. Main speeches and models to manage them. The current society: globalization, polarization, sustainability, information society, new economy.

Specific objectives:

(ENG) Understand the historical evolution of the interactions between societies and their environment up to the present, based on the technological and cultural changes that have taken place.

Analyze the relationships between the economic model of modern societies and the roots of social and environmental deterioration.

Related activities:

Activity 1: Readings and comments on articles about current society.

Full-or-part-time: 7h

Theory classes: 7h

((ENG) 2. Dinámicas demográficas y su análisis territorial.

Description:

(ENG) Demographic dynamics: evolution, projections, structure and territorial distribution. Migratory phenomena, social and regional inequalities.

Specific objectives:

(ENG) Know the sources of provision of demographic and socioeconomic data. Perform basic statistical analysis and deepen the techniques of quantitative data interpretation.

Related activities:

(ENG) Activity 2: Demographic analysis

Full-or-part-time: 8h

Theory classes: 8h

(ENG) 3. Caracterización de los conflictos socio-territoriales. Origen y temáticas. Actores, acción colectiva, movimientos reivindicativos. Discursos y argumentos.

Description:

(ENG) Main characteristics and the context in which current socio-territorial conflicts are developed and developed. Description and methodologies of analysis of the actors involved, their objectives, roles, positions and their forms of collective action. Discourses, arguments and values on: quality of life, environmental awareness, landscape, social justice, local identity, relevance and ownership of the place. Conflict management: negotiation, concertation and participation.

Specific objectives:

(ENG) Understand the context in which socioterritorial conflicts currently arise as a confrontation between models of territorial development, environmental values, unequal distribution of impacts on society. Perform institutional analyzes within the framework of territorial conflicts, recognize the role and strength of protest movements. Facilitate the tools to characterize a socio-territorial conflict and be able to assess strategies for its management.

Related activities:

(ENG) Activity 3: Analysis of a socioterritorial conflict.

Full-or-part-time: 10h

Theory classes: 10h

(ENG) 4. Environmental perception of risk, vulnerability and uncertainty.

Description:

(ENG) Present the different elements that make up the environmental risk. Social vulnerability and uncertainty. Factors that intervene in the social perception of risk. Adaptation strategies against risks in the coast.

Specific objectives:

(ENG) Understand the processes that influence the perception of risk and the institutional, social and planning and risk management aspects that amplify or reduce risk.

Related activities:

(ENG) Activity 3: Analysis of a socioterritorial conflict

Full-or-part-time: 10h

Theory classes: 10h

(ENG) 5. Governance and social participation in public intervention.

Description:

(ENG) La participación y la implicación de las comunidades locales en la planificación urbana y gestión de sus espacios. Antecedentes de la participación ciudadana. De Rio 92 al reconocimiento normativo. El concepto de participación y criterios para una participación de calidad. Análisis institucional y modelos de gobernanza en la intervención urbana. Técnicas y experiencias participativas. La diagnosis participativa: diálogo entre proceso técnico y el participativo. Barreras y oportunidades de la participación.

Specific objectives:

(ENG) The participation and involvement of local communities in urban planning and space management. Background of citizen participation. From Rio 92 to the normative recognition. The concept of participation and criteria for quality participation. Institutional analysis and governance models in urban intervention. Techniques and participatory experiences. Participatory diagnosis: dialogue between technical process and participatory. Barriers and opportunities for participation.

Related activities:

(ENG) Activity 4: Evaluation of a participatory experience

Full-or-part-time: 10h

Theory classes: 10h

GRADING SYSTEM

- EV2 Deliverable activities carried out during the course (TR). 60%
- EV3 Attendance and participation in classes and workshops (AP). twenty%
- EV4 Performance and quality of the activities delivered (TG). twenty%

EXAMINATION RULES.

All activities are compulsory and must be delivered in the format and on the date indicated during the course.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- Font, J.; Blanco, I. Polis, la ciutat participativa: participar en els municipis: qui, com i per què? [on line]. Barcelona: Diputació de Barcelona, Xarxa de Municipis, 2003 [Consultation: 28/10/2019]. Available on: <http://www1.diba.cat/liblioteca/pdf/39817.pdf>.
- García, E. Medio ambiente y sociedad : la civilización industrial y los límites del planeta. Madrid: Alianza, 2004. ISBN 8420641855.
- Nel-lo, O. Aquí, no!: els conflictes territorials a Catalunya. Barcelona: Empúries, 2003. ISBN 8475963803.
- Pardo, M. La evaluación del impacto ambiental y social para el siglo XXI : teorías, procesos, metodología. Madrid: Fundamentos, 2002. ISBN 8424509447.
- Pol, E. Impacte social, comunicació ambiental i participació [on line]. Barcelona: Generalitat de Catalunya, Departament de Medi Ambient, 2000 [Consultation: 08/03/2021]. Available on: http://www.gencat.cat/mediamb/publicacions/monografies/MU3_impacte_social_comunicacio.pdf. ISBN 111125885406.
- Sempere, J.; Riechmann, J. Sociología y medio ambiente. Madrid: Síntesis, 2000. ISBN 8477387532.
- Anuari territorial de Catalunya [on line]. Barcelona: SCOT, Societat Catalana d'Ordenació del Territori, 2003- [Consultation: 29/09/2014]. Available on: <http://territori.scot.cat/cat/anuari.php>.

Complementary:

- Aledo, A.; Domínguez, J.A. Sociología ambiental. Granada: Grupo Editorial Universitario, 2001. ISBN 978-8484911098.
- Baigorri, A. (ed.). Transiciones ambientales y participación: estudios de sociología ambiental [on line]. Salamanca: Amarú, 2012 [Consultation: 04/12/2020]. Available on: <http://es.scribd.com/doc/118519108/Transiciones-Ambientales-Web-r2>. ISBN 9788481963472.
- Blanco, I.; Gomà, R. (coord.). Gobiernos locales y redes participativas. Barcelona: Ariel, 2002. ISBN 8434442523.
- Borja, J.; Castells, M. Local y global : la gestión de las ciudades en la era de la información. 7a ed. Madrid: United Nations for Human Settlements (Habitat), Taurus, 2004. ISBN 8430605444.
- Lemkow, L. Sociología ambiental: pensamiento socioambiental y ecología social del riesgo. Barcelona: Icaria, 2002. ISBN 847426569X.
- Slovic, P. The perception of risk. London: Earthscan, 2000. ISBN 9781853835285.

RESOURCES

Audiovisual material:

- Nom recurs. Resource

Other resources:

Visits to the city of Barcelona to know in situ experiences related to the content of the subject