

Course Syllabus

**COURSE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

LEVEL: 4TH YEAR

SEMESTER: 2º

DEGREE: IIR & EUROPEAN UNION

MODALITY: CLASSROOM

COURSE PERIOD: 2021-2022

FACULTY: LAW

Code: 12273		
Course in which it is offered: 5º	Semester in which it is offered: 2º	
Character: Mandatory	ECTS (credits): 6	Hours ECTS: 180
Language: English	Modality: Presential	
Degree in which the course is offered: International Relations and European Union		
Faculty in which it is offered: Law		

2.- STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE:

Departament: Public Law
Knowledge Area: Public International Law and International Law

2. TEACHING STAFF

1.- PROFESSORS:

Name:	Luis Rodrigo de Castro
Tlfn (ext):	91 456 63 00
Email address:	Luis.rodrido1@ceu.es
Room:	Faculty of Law

2.- TUTORIAL ACTION:

Alumni will be able to contact professors via phone and email to settle tutorial meetings within the allocated time agreed (to be publish in the Alumni Portal) to solve any concern or doubt raised throughout the course.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Climate change is the biggest threat that the humankind faces. The accumulation of greenhouse gases is expected to increase the temperatures by about 2 to 5 °C before the end of the 21st century. As the impacts are global, of diverse nature and cross-cutting, the political, human, legal and scientific dimensions are crucial to understand the phenomenon. This course explores the complexities of climate change and the evolution in the approaches of the international community to confront these growing challenges. The course includes a specific focus on one of the areas of work to respond to the damage provoked by climate change processes: environmental protection.

The Course specifically addresses the implications of climate change for governance, development and security and how different stakeholders and actors, such as corporations and individuals have become essential parties through mechanisms such as the CoPs and the Agenda 2030.

The Course reviews mechanisms such as international climate negotiations and the structure of the global climate regime and how these themes have become part of the debates on international cooperative action.

In line with these, the Course would present a unique structure combining theory and practice, bringing to the class specific initiatives implemented by international organizations operating under these themes.

4. COMPETENCIES

1.- COMPETENCIES:

CB1 – Students should demonstrate to possess and understand concepts of this area of study that commences in the secondary education period, that lies in advanced textbooks but also general knowledge.

CB2 – Students should know how to apply their knowledge to their work or professional vocation and should be able to utilize competencies related to the development and defence of arguments and problem solving within the area of study

CB3 – Students should have the capacity to compile and to interpret relevant data (normally associated to the area of study) and to develop judgement that includes the reflection of social, scientific, and ethical related-themes.

CB4 – Students should be able to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialized and non-specialized audiences

CB5 – Students should develop those learning abilities necessary to continue advanced studies with a certain degree of autonomy

SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

CE4 – Understand and to know the basic character of the subjects addressed (International Public Law, History of International Relations, Comparative Political Systems) as well as the different geographic areas and the organizations working at global and regional level.
CE5 – Learn how to differentiate the distribution of powers and functions of the State, international organizations, the European Union and other social groups in the international system.
CE6 - Know the sources of information on the European Union, the work of its Institutions and the application of its policies, as well as the doctrinal sources of critical analysis.
CE11 - Know how to analyse international conflicts, their causes, and effects on countries and on the global societies.
CE12 - Understand the characteristics of international cooperation and security relations in order to evaluate the effectiveness of development policies.
CE13 - Know the main actors and relationships of the different regional areas of the international system, as well as explain the origins, evolution, and consequences of the different international processes of regional integration.
CE14 - Know the principles and norms of public law, both state and international, and international procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes.
CE15 - Understand the institutions, rules and decision-making procedures in the European Union in order to know how to analyze the activities it develops in the social sphere and in its foreign, security and defense relations.
CE17 - Be able to develop critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas in the framework of international relations.

2.- LEARNING RESULTS:

1º Understanding of the existing dynamics between nature and society. The spotlight is equally put on:
a. the influence exerted on the ecosystems' integrity by the development of the socio-cultural context and the biodiversity; b. The influence exerted on human behavior by ecosystems and biodiversity.

2º. Assessment of the diverse range of mechanisms and international organizations at the service of the fight against climate change.

3º Awareness of the relevance of the topic with a special focus on the responsible use of energy sources and respect towards the environment.

5. FORMATIVE ACTIVITIES

1.- STUDENT WORK DISTRIBUTION:

Total hours of the course	180
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Code	Name	Presential Hours
AF1	MASTER CLASS	6
AF2	SEMINAR	50
AF3	WORK IN GROUPS	4
TOTAL Classroom hours		60

Code	Name	Non-presential
AF4	SUMMARY WORK	30
AF5	Autonomous work of the student	90

2.- DESCRIPTION OF FORMATIVE ACTIVITIES:

Activity	Definition
Master class (AF1)	Training activity in the classroom-seminar that prioritizes the transmission of knowledge by the professor, requiring the student to prepare prior and / or study later.
Seminar (AF2)	Training activity in the classroom-seminar that, under the professor's guidance, encourages cooperative learning among students and is directed to the study and understanding of the subject.
Workshop (work in groups) (AF3)	Training activity in the classroom-seminar that, under the professor's guidance, is aimed at solving practical cases or delving into problematic aspects or aspects of special interest.
(AF6)	Training activity in which the student autonomously manages their learning through the study of training materials or activities indicated by the professors.

6. SYSTEMS AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

1.- CLASS ATTENDANCE:

- To be able to benefit from the continuous assessment system it is necessary to attend 75% of the theory classes (attendance checks will be carried out). Since the student may miss 25% of the total classes, excuses for absence will not be accepted.
- 75% of attendance to practical classes is mandatory.

2.- SYSTEMS AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION:

a. EXTRAORDINARY CALL

The student who does not pass the Course in the ordinary call must take the final exam of the extraordinary call, which will cover all the topics contained in the Course.

In the extraordinary call, the percentages required for continuous evaluation will not apply; the exam that will be valued at 100%. However, the content of the examination of the extraordinary call will include different exercises (theoretical / practical) that demonstrate the aptitude of the student in the required competences.

b.- ORDINARY CALL (Continuous Assessment)

Oral presentations and active participation- 20% (SE1, SE3)

Working groups, case studies and other tests - 20% (SE2, SE4, SE6)

Final exam - 60% (SE2)

7. SYLLABUS OF THE COURSE

1.- PROGRAM OF THE COURSE:

Chapter 1. History of Climate Change. Fundamentals of Climate Change. Climate, the Environment, and Scientific Activism

Chapter 2. The evolution of Environmental Protection. Basics on Biodiversity

Chapter 3. Key themes on Environmental Protection: Air Quality, Pollution, Water Quality, Green Building and Urban Sustainability

Chapter 4. Towards the concept of Global Sustainability

Chapter 5. The environmental, economic and security dimensions of climate change

Chapter 6. Environmental History. The development of the global governance framework

Chapter 7. Resilience, Mitigation, Adaptation and Development

Chapter 8. Climate Governance and Environmental Politics

Chapter 9. Weapons, War, Conflict and the Environment. Understanding the Complexity of Environmental and Human Security

Chapter 10. Environmental Science and Policymaking

Chapter 11. Climate: Science and Society

Chapter 12. Political Ecology and Development

Chapter 13. Global map of interventions on environmental protection

Chapter 14. Global Law of Climate Change

Chapter 15. Environmental Justice

8. BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

1.- BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY:

DOMENECH, J.L. (2007). Huella ecológica y desarrollo sostenible. Madrid. Aenor Ediciones

LOVELOCK, James (2007). la venganza de la tierra- 1ªed. - Buenos Aires : Planeta. 264 p

GORE, Al (2007). Una Verdad Incómoda. Barcelona. Gedisa Editorial

CARSON, R. (1962). Primavera silenciosa. Barcelona. Editorial Crítica

2.- ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:

RICH, N., Losing Earth: A Recent History

KOLBERT, E., Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future

MCKENZIE, F., The Booming Business of Global Warming

WALLACE-WELLS, D., The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming.

- **3.- USEFUL WEB RESOURCES:**

<https://www.un.org/es/global-issues/climate-change>

<https://unfccc.int/es/cop25>

<https://www.oecd.org/env/cc/>

[www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals?utm_source=EN&utm_medium=GSR&utm_content=US UNDP PaidSearch Brand English&utm_campaign=CENTRAL&c_src=CENTRAL&c_src2=GSR&gclid=Cj0KCQjwxJqHBhC4ARIsACHq4av-HB0D4FDFhF91ETMX6CG6DlxAXYtKNTzLDAuRmzzcvsQNMYkvX_QaAl-sEALw_wcB](http://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals?utm_source=EN&utm_medium=GSR&utm_content=US_UNDP_PaidSearch_Brand_English&utm_campaign=CENTRAL&c_src=CENTRAL&c_src2=GSR&gclid=Cj0KCQjwxJqHBhC4ARIsACHq4av-HB0D4FDFhF91ETMX6CG6DlxAXYtKNTzLDAuRmzzcvsQNMYkvX_QaAl-sEALw_wcB)

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/es/policies/climate-change/>

https://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/eu_es

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/es/sheet/72/la-lucha-contra-el-cambioclimatico#:~:text=El%2028%20de%20noviembre%20de,de%20efecto%20invernadero%20para%202050.>

9. BEHAVIOR RULES

1.- RULES:

Failing in following academic integrity (absence of citation of sources, plagiarism of works or improper / prohibited use of information during exams), as well as signing on the attendance sheet by a classmate who is not in class, will imply the loss of the continuous evaluation, without prejudice to the sanctioning actions that are established.

10. EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES

In the event of an exceptional situation that prevents the provision of face-to-face teaching under appropriate conditions, the University will adopt appropriate decisions, and will apply the necessary measures to guarantee the acquisition of the competences and the learning results of the students. established in this Teaching Guide, according to the teaching coordination mechanisms of the Internal Quality Assurance System of each degree.