

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR

ES 4244 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

3/0/3

(New Fall 2022)

UK LEVEL: 6
UK CREDITS: 15

PREREQUISITES:

ES1000 Environmental Science: Ecosystems and Biodiversity,
ES1010 Environmental Science: Energy Resources and Pollution

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The course explores specific contemporary environmental issues using an in-depth, integrated, multi/interdisciplinary approach. Topics may vary from year to year and draw from all environmental studies fields, following current research trends and priorities at global, EU and national level. Emphasis is given on presenting innovative research in the fields examined.

RATIONALE:

As Environmental Studies students progress to higher levels, it becomes particularly important that they examine in more depth the current environmental challenges following an integrated approach, with emphasis on multi/interdisciplinary solutions, sustainability and innovation. This course provides grounds for such an analysis. Through it, students get exposed to a specific topic, which may vary from year to year and will be taught by faculty having the relevant expertise. The selected topics should provide a holistic approach and enable students to develop their critical thinking and apply knowledge they have obtained also in previous courses of the program. The course helps students develop not only knowledge on the subject, but also important practical and transferable skills, exposing them to the latest research in the particular field. Students will be able to take this course more than once, provided the thematic is different each time (the course subtitle will vary); it is an optional course of the Environmental Studies BSc program.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a specific environmental topic/issue/theme and its different dimensions.
2. Integrate knowledge from previous Environmental Studies courses and apply principles, theories and methods towards the analysis of selected environmental issues, case studies or research topics, with emphasis on multi/interdisciplinary approaches.
3. Examine a selected topic in a critical manner with emphasis on innovation and sustainability, finally, planning and composing a project report.
4. Demonstrate ability to communicate research findings effectively in several forms (e.g. written, graphical and verbal), and defend them in a professional manner.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:

In congruence with the learning and teaching strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Class lectures, interactive learning (literature discussions, flipped class activities, group work), video presentations and case studies discussed in class.
- Students' projects and in-class presentations.
- Invited speakers and/or visits to selected sites.
- Use of Blackboard course management system, through which instructors post course information, lecture notes and other resources, assignments, announcements, as well as additional resources; use of Blackboard online interactive tools for facilitating group work and student-instructor interaction.
- Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office

	hours of their instructor, where they can ask questions, see their exam paper, and/or go over course material.						
ASSESSMENT:	<p>Summative:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Project (3,000-3,500 words)</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coursework Portfolio: 3 coursework items selected among: critical response to selected essay questions, literature/journal discussions, case study analysis, multimedia presentation (e.g. videos, posters)</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Formative:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Critical response to selected questions during the semester</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </table> <p>The formative tests aim to prepare students for the coursework portfolio. The coursework portfolio tests learning outcomes 1, 2 and 4. The student project primarily tests learning outcomes 3 and 4.</p>	Project (3,000-3,500 words)	40%	Coursework Portfolio: 3 coursework items selected among: critical response to selected essay questions, literature/journal discussions, case study analysis, multimedia presentation (e.g. videos, posters)	60%	Critical response to selected questions during the semester	0%
Project (3,000-3,500 words)	40%						
Coursework Portfolio: 3 coursework items selected among: critical response to selected essay questions, literature/journal discussions, case study analysis, multimedia presentation (e.g. videos, posters)	60%						
Critical response to selected questions during the semester	0%						
INDICATIVE READING:	<p>REQUIRED READING: Varies according to topic, theme, or issue chosen. May include Textbooks, Reports, Journals, Databases.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Varies according to topic, theme, or issue chosen. May include Textbooks, Reports, Journals, Databases.</p>						
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p>REQUIRED READING: Varies according to topic, theme, or issue chosen.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Varies according to topic, theme, or issue chosen.</p>						
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Verbal skills using academic/professional English. With the exception of the in-class examination, all written work must be word-processed on Word and adhere to APA or Harvard guidelines for manuscript format and documentation.						
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Word, PowerPoint, Excel						
WWW RESOURCES:	Vary according to topic, theme, or issue chosen.						
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	<p>Vary according to topic, theme, or issue chosen.</p> <p>Indicative topics/thematic areas include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity management (species, ecosystems); emphasis on the case of Greece • Forest fires: impacts, management, climate change • Ecosystem management and restoration (nature-based solutions) • Environmental management systems • Protected areas: Case studies of selected Geoparks, UNESCO MAB 						

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable tourism• Urban restoration• Sustainable Development for a better future (examining specific topics under the context of sustainable development)• Sustainability indicators: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Environmental, Social and Governance framework (ESGs)• Circular economy and zero pollution• Water-Energy-Food nexus• Sustainable production (agriculture, industry), supply chain and waste minimization• Management of marine resources• Environmental exposures |
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