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# Ecology of Spain

**COURSE DESIGNATOR** MADR 3002

**Language of Instruction** English

**NUMBER OF CREDITS** 3 credits

**Contact Hours** # hours

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

## INSTRUCTOR

## COURSE GOAL

1. To study the basic mechanisms of how our environment functions. To study the different ecosystems in Spain, their principal characteristics and the relation between their components.
2. To analyse and assess the impact and consequences of human activity on the different ecosystems. Learn the risks and the environmental impacts on those ecosystems and how to prevent them.
3. To develop a fuller understanding and appreciation of the world of nature in a global way. To understand the changes caused by the interaction of the ecosystem's components and the balance between them.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the course objectives the professor will explain the basic ecological concepts using audiovisual material, such as presentations, videos, DVDs, animated models, Internet resources (such as Google Maps), etc. Among others, the use of natural resources or the relation between pollution and the greenhouse effect are two of the topics used for participation and discussion.

Case studies will be used to further study the relation between the ecosystem's components or the environmental alterations. Students will present and analyze in class a recent news article or a current issue by gathering information and investigating. Students will do individual papers about specific aspects of ecosystems and Spain's flora and fauna, as well as a group paper to get a global perspective of the environment. In order to achieve a closer approach to nature-related topics (at times far from the students' interests), two field trips to natural urban surroundings are organized, such as the garden of the Fundación Ortega-Marañón and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Madrid. Likewise, a trip is planned to the Sierra de Guadarrama, a very representative area of high-mountain and Mediterranean ecosystems in Spain. Students will visit an animal recovery shelter to observe the most representative fauna in the central region of Spain and to learn about the work involved in the recovery of injured animals. Finally, students will visit an ecological golf course as an example of sustainable development. Students will write their papers based on these visits.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

### REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

Readings will be made available during the semester

## GRADING

CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

Grading Rubric		
A	95+	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-94	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	86-89	
B	83-85	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	76-79	
C	73-75	
C-	70-72	
D+	66-69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D	60-65	
F	<59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of how grades are weighted:

Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Papers	40%
Class participation and activities	10%
Overall Grade	100%

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1
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WEEK 2
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WEEK 3
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WEEK 4
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WEEK 5
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WEEK 6
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<b>WEEK 7</b>
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<b>WEEK 8</b>
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<b>WEEK 9</b>
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<b>WEEK 10</b>
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<b>WEEK 11</b>
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<b>WEEK 12</b>
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<b>WEEK 13</b>
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**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:**

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

#### STUDENT CONDUCT

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.