

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: APPROACHING LOCAL SELF-SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Descripción general y objetivos

This survey course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive approach to local self-sustainable practices, models and cultures in the Mediterranean region. Through revising bibliographic references and local case studies, students will understand the basics of traditional and innovative local self-sustainable projects in the Mediterranean context. Students will also identify and compare the community practices and local governance in the Mediterranean region, contrasting the city and rural landscape configurations in the Mediterranean region, especially those related to the local self-sustainable development. They also will identify and explain in situ the processes and resistances that are influencing the local sustainability of Granada and its surroundings.

Programa de contenidos

1. Introduction to the Mediterranean environmental conflicts: Complexity, environmental limits and the new development-related poverties.
2. The Mediterranean region: Enhancing the long-term identity of places in order to care for the human environment.
3. From sustainability to "sustainabilities". Understanding the concepts of: Demand Management, Eco-efficiency, Self-sufficiency, Ecological Footprint, Precaution and Biomimesis.
4. Local self-sustainable development: from economic growth to well-being in the Mediterranean context.
5. New community practices in the Mediterranean: local administration and governing the environment.
6. Urban milieu and sustainability in the Mediterranean region.
7. From the metropolis to the city-region: field visit to the city of Granada.
8. From the metropolis to the Mediterranean city of villages: boundaries and environmental re-qualification.
9. The territorial ecosystem: the producers of the landscape and the environment in the Mediterranean region.
10. Granada city-region: fieldwork to urban and rural environment of Granada: Granada city, la Vega (irrigated agricultural plane) and coast.
11. The new city-rural alliance: analysing case studies in the Mediterranean.
12. The local project in the Mediterranean: group presentation.

Evaluación

1. Exam (40%). Midterm (20%) –that keep mark for the final exam– and Final exam (20% in case of passing the first exam). Multiple choice: 25 questions of 4 possible answers.
2. Group paper and class presentation (30%): Considering Mediterranean case studies and the contents/references given in the course, you need to produce a presentation and a paper of 1.500 to 2.000 words (excluding the list of references) addressing at least the following tasks:
 - The main questions affecting the self-sustainability of local practices, models and cultures in the Mediterranean region (e.g. complexity, eco-efficiency, self-sufficiency, environmental limits, economic growth vs. well being, and the new development-related poverties).
 - Evaluate the community practices and local governance in the Mediterranean region (e.g. the local administration governing the environment, the new municipality as a bottom-up globalization process, the producers of the landscape and the environment, international cooperation...).
 - The city and rural landscape configurations in the Mediterranean region, especially those related to the local self-sustainable development (e.g. a new city-rural alliance, from the metropolis to the city-region, boundaries and environmental re-qualification, closing the cycles and demand management for water, energy, materials and transport...).
3. Activities and participation (30%). This assignment includes readings and short essays