



# Legal and Political Aspects of Current Challenges: Cultural Dimensions of Sustainability

## Educational subject description sheet

### Basic information

<b>Field of study</b> Joint Bachelor in Sustainability		<b>Education cycle</b> 2025/26	
<b>Speciality</b> Law & Politics of Sustainability		<b>Subject code</b> UJ.WPAJBSPSS.8100.16394.25	
<b>Organizational unit</b> Faculty of Law and Administration		<b>Lecture languages</b> english	
<b>Study level</b> first cycle (joint degree programme)		<b>Subject related to scientific research</b> Yes	
<b>Study form</b> full-time degree programme		<b>Disciplines</b> Learning about the culture and religion, Sociology of science, Political science and administration, Legal science	
<b>Education profile</b> General academic		<b>ISCED classification</b> 0488 Interdisciplinary programmes involving broad field 04	
<b>Mandatory</b> obligatory		<b>USOS code</b>	
<b>Subject coordinator</b> Piotr Szwedo			
<b>Lecturer</b> Mireia Campanera, Olga Mancha-Cáceres, Susana Ramirez, Silvia Bagni			
<b>Period</b> Semester 5	<b>Examination</b> exam	<b>Number of ECTS points</b> 4.0	
	<b>Activities and hours</b> Discussion class: 30		

### Goals

C1	The aim is to interactively familiarise students with key cultural aspects of sustainability, utilizing the expertise of specialists from several academic institutions and disciplines. Students will learn to develop and present their own opinions.
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## Subject's learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Effects	Examination methods
<b>Knowledge - Student knows and understands:</b>			
W1	the key functions, institutions, development trends, values, and norms related to cultural aspects of sustainability, and is able to refer to them in the context of contemporary sustainability challenges.	JBS_K1_W03, JBS_K1_W06	written exam
W2	the most important processes related to cultural aspects of sustainability, being able to provide an explanation of the axiological and political background of the differences in approaches.	JBS_K1_W01, JBS_K1_W02, JBS_K1_W05, JBS_K1_W06	written exam
<b>Skills - Student can:</b>			
U1	develop and present a clear, concise, and logical solution to a typical problem stemming from cultural aspects of sustainability.	JBS_K1_U01, JBS_K1_U02	written exam
<b>Social competences - Student is ready for:</b>			
K1	to critically approach their knowledge and its sources, while noticing the importance of interdisciplinary knowledge and expert opinions for solving problems linked to cultural aspects of sustainability	JBS_K1_K04, JBS_K1_K05	written exam
K2	to take a position in relation to the development trends of cultural aspects of sustainability and logically justify it.	JBS_K1_K03	written exam

## Calculation of ECTS points

Activity form	Activity hours*
Discussion class	30
preparation for the exam	45
preparation for classes	35
<b>Student workload</b>	<b>Hours</b> 110
	<b>ECTS</b> 4.0

\* hour means 45 minutes

## Study content

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
1.	<p>Introduction to qualitative methodology and anthropological approach.</p> <p>Lecture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Introduction to qualitative research and its relevance to the study of environmental issues.</li> <li>· Basic principles of the anthropological approach in research.</li> </ul> <p>Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Presentation and discussion of a case study: qualitative research with an anthropological approach</li> </ul> <p>Ethnography I</p> <p>Lecture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Definition and characteristics of ethnography.</li> <li>· Main steps and stages of an ethnographic study.</li> </ul>	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
2.	<p>Ethnography II</p> <p>Lecture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Tools and techniques used in ethnographic data collection.</li> <li>· Introduction to EFR (Ethnographic Futures Research) and its theoretical underpinnings. Explanation of the importance of community participation and collaborative approach in research.</li> </ul> <p>Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· A case study of EFR is presented to contextualise the approach.</li> <li>· Analysis of the target community: cultural characteristics, environmental challenges and aspirations for the future.</li> <li>· Practical activity: Paired interviews. Students interview each other to gather information on perspectives and visions for the future related to sustainability.</li> </ul> <p>Cultural diversity and sustainability I</p> <p>Lecture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Key notions: cultural diversity, cultural relativism, ethnocentrism, emic/etic.</li> </ul>	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
3.	<p>Cultural diversity and sustainability II</p> <p>Lecture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Exploration of the relationship between cultural diversity and environmental sustainability.</li> <li>· Analysis of case studies demonstrating how cultural diversity can contribute to conservation and sustainable environmental management.</li> </ul> <p>Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Case study: Traditional knowledge and sustainable practices of the community studied.</li> <li>· Practical exercise: students conduct documental research to gather information on the traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable practices of a specific local community.</li> <li>· Additional practical exercise: interview script development to deepen the aspects detected in the documentary research.</li> </ul>	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
4.	<p>Analysis of ethnographies on sustainability, conservation, and environmental conflict</p> <p>Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Group work: Review, critical analysis and discussion of relevant ethnographies that address issues of sustainability, conservation and environmental conflict. Findings and lessons learned from selected ethnographies.</li> <li>· Group work: Exploration of specific techniques and tools used in ethnographic research related to environmental problems. Identification of the methods and approaches used in these ethnographies, and their advantages and disadvantages.</li> <li>· Participatory and collaborative practices in ethnographic research.</li> <li>· Reflection on ethics and the role of the researcher in ethnographic research.</li> <li>· Group work: students develop different future scenarios to address the environmental challenges identified by the community.</li> <li>· Presentation of the scenarios and group discussion on the implications and feasibility of each scenario.</li> </ul>	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
5.	<p>Practices of ethnography: Ethnographic Futures Research</p> <p>Part 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Envisioning sustainable futures.</li> <li>· Teamwork: Students develop different future scenarios to address the environmental challenges identified by the community.</li> <li>· Presentation of the scenarios and group discussion on the implications and feasibility of each scenario.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Co-creation of strategies and action plans.</li> <li>· Teamwork: students collaborate with the fictional community to develop practical strategies and action plans that address the challenges identified.</li> <li>· Presentation of the strategies and discussion of their alignment with the culture and aspirations of the community.</li> </ul> <p>Evaluation and closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Discussion and closure of the EFR process.</li> <li>· Discussion on local and/or indigenous knowledge role in sustainability research.</li> </ul> <p>Feedback and evaluation of the course.</p>	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
6.	Legal Comparative Methodology as an instrument to analyse the topic	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
7.	History of the concepts of Sustainability and Development from a legal perspective; forms of State in contemporary Constitutionalism – The Caring State	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
8.	The Intercultural State: concepts and cases	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
9.	The Ecological State: concepts and cases	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
10.	Trial simulation	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2

## Course advanced

### Teaching methods :

text analysis, brainstorming, conversation lecture, lecture with multimedia presentation, discussion, case study, gamification

Activities	Examination methods	Credit conditions
Discussion class	written exam	Active participation (non-graded), written exam based on open questions (graded).

## Entry requirements

None

## Literature

### Obligatory

1. Case law, video materials and documents distributed in class.

## Effects

Code	Content
JBS_K1_K03	The graduate can consider different visions of the future and develop own evidence-based opinions in reference to the balance of values linked to economic development, social welfare, and environmental protection.
JBS_K1_K04	The graduate can critically assess and verbalize own competencies and skills related to different aspects of sustainability as well as their need for development.
JBS_K1_K05	The graduate can defend the importance of scientific data and methods as a basis for decision-making.
JBS_K1_U01	The graduate can critically analyse academic literature, formulate research questions and conduct research under supervision.
JBS_K1_U02	The graduate can present and report knowledge, methodologies, ideas, problems and solutions, clearly and comprehensively, in different forms destined for different audiences - including discussions and debates which require defending a substantiated opinion, as well as conversations in a foreign language at the CEFR B2 level.
JBS_K1_W01	The graduate can describe the concept of sustainability and recognize the differences in relevant definitions, models and approaches.
JBS_K1_W02	The graduate can explain the axiological background of sustainability and summarize key stages of development of the concept.
JBS_K1_W03	The graduate can give examples of sustainability-related dilemmas and hypothesize on the optimal course of action.
JBS_K1_W05	The graduate can identify essential international instruments and institutions related to sustainability and explain their potential role in resolution of a given problem.
JBS_K1_W06	The graduate can describe interconnections between various aspects of sustainability and identify their significance in the context of natural and social sciences, with a special focus on disciplines included in the selected specialisation track (law and politics; chemistry and physics; chemistry and biology; economics and geography; economics, management and engineering; humanities).