

**Proyecto docente de la asignatura**

Subject name	Geobotany		
Subject area	Natural Sciences		
Module	Optional Module/ International Semester on Forestry		
Qualification	Bachelor degree in Forest and Natural Environment Engineering		
Plan	449	Code	42163
Teaching period	Second Semester	Type/Nature	Optional
Level/Stage	Bachelor	Curso	2º
ECTS Credits	3		
Language of Instruction	English		
Instructor	Pilar Zaldivar García, MSc, PhD		
Contact details	zaldivar@agro.uva.es , 979 10 84 39 (office) Main building (Green building) Office HF234 (last floor, left stairs)		
Tutorial timetable	http://www.uva.es/export/sites/uva/2.docencia/2.01.grados/2.01.02.o_fertaformativagrados/2.01.02.01.alfabetica/Grado-en-Ingenieria-Forestal-y-del-Medio-Natural/ and click on the tab "tutorías" also: www.uva.es >Grados o Masteres>Degree>"Tutorías"		
Department	Agroforestry Sciences		
Knowledge area	Botany		



1. General course description

1.1 Scope

This course explores the biogeography and ecology of the world's main biomes. It provides an introduction to the earth's biological history and development of regional floras. Topics covered in this course include the distribution patterns of biomes, from the poles to the tropics, their ecological adaptations to climate and soil, vegetation dynamics and response to disturbance. Land use and global environmental change will be also taken in account. The scope is global, with secondary emphasis on Mediterranean ecosystems.

1.2 Relationship with Academic Program

The course will develop a broad range of insights useful to forestry and natural resources students. It is an extraordinary introduction to the variety of trees and other plants of value to man, providing approaches to environmental and social problems.

1.3 Pre-requisites

There are not pre-requisites for Geobotany, although knowlegde of Biology, Dendrology, Botany, Ecology, Climatology and Soil Sciences may be useful.

English college reading and writing is asumed.

2. Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

2.1 Generals

The General competences (G1 to G27) will be addressed on a global basis, and, particularly, efforts will be made to the compliance of:

G3 Be able to analyze and synthesize.

G4 To be capable of organizing and of planning.

G5 Be able to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, with both internal audiences.

G15 To show critical reasoning.

2.2 Course Outcomes and Objectives

- Demonstrate knowledge of the main historical processes of the life on earth.
- Demonstrate basic understanding of global climate.
- Be familiar with the major vegetation types of the World.
- Be familiar with important boreal, temperate and tropical trees.
- To understand the dynamics of natural ecosystems, where they occur and its adaptations to environmental conditions.
- To understand how major biomas have changed in the past and how they may change due to global enviromental change.
- To do basic bibliographic research and present scientific information on a forest product of a representative country.
- Learnt to assess and analyze the work of a colleague student.



3. General Outline of Topics Covered

Contents:

1. Introduction. Earth History and Biogeography.
2. Global climate and vegetation.
3. Tropical forests.
4. Tropical savannas.
5. Deserts and Semi-Deserts.
6. Mediterranean woodlands and shrublands.
7. Temperate forests: rain, evergreen and deciduous.
8. Temperate grasslands.
9. Boreal forests.
10. Tundra and alpine vegetation.

Oral presentation:

Each student will present a 10-minute power point oral presentation

- Guidelines for these presentations will be handed out early in the semester

Recommended readings:

Lecture powerpoints will be posted on the course website (Moodle).

Archibold, O.W. (1995) Ecology of World Vegetation. Chapman & Hall. London.

Shultz, J. (1995) The Ecozones of the World. The Ecological Divisions of the Geosphere. Springer. Berlin.

Walter, H. 1985. Vegetation of the Earth and Ecological Systems of the Geo-biosphere. Springer. Berlin.

4. Teaching methods

A combination of lecture based on flipped classes methodology and students active discussion are used in this course. Students will be encouraged to share thoughts and opinions. Participation and interaction with other students will be required.

5. Student dedication to the Course

In Class	Hours	Outside Class	Hours
Lectures	24	Study and personal work	35
Oral Presentations	6	Preparation of oral presentation	10
Total in class	30	Total outside class	45



7. Grading

Activity	Percentage of final grade	Comments
Weekly quizzes	70	Mandatory - individual Short questions about previous week topic
Oral presentations	15	Mandatory - individual A rubric with grading details will be provided. Emphasis will be on slides and speaking.
Final Exam	15	Mandatory - individual Short questions and blank maps to draw the area of a biome. Focus will be on understanding concepts.

Grading Criteria

Weekly quizzes and class oral presentation are mandatory. It is not possible to pass the course with final examination only.

8. General Course Policies

Attendance:

- Lectures form a core component of this course. Students must ensure that they are available to attend lectures and to show up on time.
- Attendance at class is expected, and students should be prepared to justify absences.
- All classes will have duration of 50 minutes, followed by 10 min break.
- They should pay close attention to the class schedule and read the material prior to class.

Class Demeanor Expected by Instructor:

- Students should be considerate, polite, open-minded, objective and show interest in the work of others. They are welcome to share new ideas during class and are encouraged to read related papers.
- Food or drinks, except water, are prohibited in the classroom. Students may use the 10 min break to have coffee or food.

Technology in the classroom:

- No cellphones are allowed, unless the instructor ask you to use them. Please, turn-off your cell phone prior to the start of class. You will be asked to leave the course for the day if you are using your phone.
- Laptops are permitted in class, however, if they become a distraction the instructor may ask you to put them away.
- Students may use the 10 min break to attend social media: Facebook posts, whastup, etc.

Policy on Academic Ethics and Honesty:

The University of Valladolid (UVa) regards cheating as a serious academic offence. Anyone caught cheating will automatically receive a 0/10 for the quiz/exam/assignment, and will be reported to the dean. Your responsibility, besides maintaining a high standard of personal honesty, includes taking precautions to prevent others from copying your work. A student's assessed work may be reviewed against electronic source material using computerised detection mechanisms.