DESCRIPTION: The course will explore what is understood by the term Mediterranean Environment. The main characteristics of the Mediterranean will be studied from an environmental (terrestrial and marine), historical, social, economic and cultural point of view. Emphasis will be given to the unifying role of the Mediterranean Sea, climate, and ecosystems, as well as shared realities and the regional approach to tackle environmental problems. The course looks closely into the effects of human activities on the marine and coastal areas, the efforts to reverse the ecological damage and to reach sustainable development.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures: provide the platform to introduce each topic, set core concepts and analyze the different elements involved in each session while promoting discussions to share different points of view and encourage student participation.
- Readings: selected texts consist of either an overview of the relevant subject and background information, or a case study that illustrates the main ideas to be discussed during class. Readings are sometimes quite technical and will come mostly from Academic publications (peer-reviewed articles).
- Homework Assignments: will be based on the reading for a particular session and aim to help the student identify the key points of the readings and facilitate discussion during class. They are due at the beginning of each class.
- Class activities: are designed to apply the learned information and help the student assimilate it in a more personal way. These consist of group activities, analyses, student’s presentations and documentary viewings among others. These activities also promote student participation.
- Term paper and oral presentation: Students have the opportunity to analyze and explore in more detail some of the topics discussed in class. This is a skill-building exercise and the oral presentation and discussion allows the student to share the learning experience with the rest of the class.
- Off-site classes: provide a hands-on experience of some of the topics through visits to certain localities that exemplify some of the topics discussed in class.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT: The final grade will be determined as follows:

- Class participation and homework (15%): to guarantee that students are familiar with the topics covered in class, and their involvement in class activities and assignments.
- Course-related trips and classes off-site (15%): attendance to course-related trips and off-site classes is mandatory, this activity is essential to gain a deep insight into some of the topics covered by the course. There will be specific assignments for these activities that will need to be completed during and after the visits.
- Midterm exam (25%) and Final exam (25%): a set of written, short-answered questions to evaluate whether students are familiar with the basic topics discussed in class.
- Term paper and oral presentation (20%): to assess the capacity of students to integrate analyze, compare and present information.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
• Identify the key elements that define a “Mediterranean” culture and climate.
• Analyze the role of humans in shaping Mediterranean ecosystems;
• Identify the main environmental problems and challenges faced by Mediterranean countries;
• Differentiate the Mediterranean region from other temperate regions in the world
• Understand the need for sustainable development in the Mediterranean
• Appreciate the significance of “Mediterraneism”: a climate, a sea, a landscape, a culture, a history... all of these and much more!!

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

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• Chefaoui, R.M. (2017) Palaeoclimatic conditions in the Mediterranean explain genetic diversity of |
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<td><em>Posidonia oceanica</em> seagrass meadows. <em>Scientific Reports</em>, <strong>7</strong>: 2732-2740.</td>
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<td>Course-related trip: EBRO DELTA</td>
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<td>- IUCN (1999). Forest Harvest: Mediterranean woodlands and the importance of non-timber forest products to forest conservation. Special Supplement Arbor Vitae.</td>
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<td>- <em>Barcelona Botanical Gardens Website</em>: <a href="http://www.jardibotanic.bcn.es">www.jardibotanic.bcn.es</a></td>
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**REQUIRED READINGS:**
- Barcelona Botanical Gardens Website: www.jardibotanic.bcn.es
• IUCN (1999). Forest Harvest: Mediterranean woodlands and the importance of non-timber forest products to forest conservation. Special Supplement Arbor Vitae.