



## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *How many people can Earth support? - 40352*

*Last update 02-09-2024*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: Geography*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st and/or 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Shira Bukchin-Peles*

*Coordinator Email: [shira.peles@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:shira.peles@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays by appointment*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Shira Bukchin - Peles,  
Dr. Amit Tubi

Course/Module description:

*The Earth's population is larger than ever and continues to grow, while the Earth's natural systems are experiencing unprecedented pressures. In light of these processes, the course focuses on a critical question: How many people can the Earth sustain? This question is examined from the perspective of human-environment relations, exploring the mutual impact between human systems and natural systems on global, regional, and local scales over time.*

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

*Describe and evaluate the outlines of human-environment relations from a global perspective.*

*Critically assess the concept of carrying capacity.*

*Examine the interactions between population, food, water, and energy.*

*Identify the interactions between the global level and globalization processes with the regional and local levels.*

Attendance requirements(%):

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Recorded frontal lectures*

Course/Module Content:

- 1. Introduction: Environment and Society*
- 2. Environmental Impacts on Humans: A Historical Perspective on Human*

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*Development*

- 3. Human Impacts on the Environment: A Historical and Spatial Perspective*
- 4. Collapse? The Impact of Humans on the Environment and Back Again*
- 5. Population*
- 6. Food*
- 7. Water*
- 8. Energy*
- 9. Ecosystem Services: Open Spaces and Biodiversity*
- 10. Scale of Environmental Issues 1: Urbanization Processes and Basic Concepts in the Human Footprint*
- 11. Scale of Environmental Issues 2: Calculating the Human Footprint and Transboundary Environmental Issues*
- 12. Thule-Tuvalu: A Contemporary Look at the Consequences of Climate Change (Film in English and Discussion)*

*Required Reading:*  
*see Moodle*

*Additional Reading Material:*

*Grading Scheme:*  
*Written / Oral / Practical Exam 100 %*

*Additional information:*