The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

How many people can Earth support? - 40352

Last update 11-03-2025

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 E. Safra

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Amit Tubi

Coordinator Email: shira.peles@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-13:00 room 26412

Teaching Staff:

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:

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.

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 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 Exam % 100

Additional information: