

University of Rome Tor Vergata
Undergraduate Degree (B.A.) in Global Governance

Course Syllabus
Plants and Environment
6 CFU
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Course description

Our planet is quickly changing. Also climate is changing. In last decades human population is growing up and its require of energy, food and space is increasing.

How plants can help us?

The course will deal with relation between climate and plants. The risk and the consequence due to climate changes on vegetation and flora.

Possible strategies and innovative methodologies and policy.

Learning objectives

To provide students a common knowledge of the biological life dynamics and relationship with human presence on earth

Readings

Students will receive slides, papers, web sites.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y4252e/y4252e15.htm>

<http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>

<http://www.climateandpolicy.eu>

Required readings

Handouts from the teachers, readings from the web.

Possible field trip

- Archaeological excavations in May, at Tor Vergata (via J.P. Sartre): Thermal complex with wall paintings; the thermal complex is near to a paved roman road, still visible for about 1 km. in villa are visible *calidarium*, *tepidarium* and *frigidarium*.
- Modern farm in Fiorenzuola d'Arda (PC): Grana Padano cheese producer, from forage to cheese wheel, with modern cattleshed, cows, milking machine.

Exam

Written mid-term exams (2) and written final exam will be considered. Each written exam consisting of some multiple choice questions and one or two open questions.

Final evaluation will be the average of three tests.

Topics

- 1 climate on Earth
- 2 distribution of climate on Earth: causes of distribution
- 3 tropical evergreen forest
- 4 tropical deciduous forest
- 5 temperate evergreen forest
- 6 mixed wood
- 7 boreal wood

- 8 savanna
- 9 grassland and steppe
- 10 tundra
- 11 desert and barren

For each biome, hazards and impact on population due to climate changes will be described.