



Syllabus
Plants and environment
6 CFU
Prof. Alessandro Travaglini

Course Description

Our planet seems to be quickly changing, and also planet climate is changing. In the last decades the human population has increased and similarly its need for energy, food and space are increasing. An interesting and unexpected point of view to understand these problems is given by Encyclical letter “Laudato si” of the holy father Francis on care for our common home.

Starting from this document some important topics will be analysed such as pollution and climate change, the issue of water, loss of biodiversity.

The course will provide students with a fundamental knowledge of the dynamics of biological life and its relationship with the human presence on earth, the relationship between climate and plants, as well as the risk and the consequences due to climate change on vegetation and flora. The course considers possible strategies and innovative methodologies and policies.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	Climate on Earth
Topic 2	Climate distribution on Earth: causes of distribution
Topic 3	Different biomes

Teaching Method

The course is carried out through lectures and power point presentations in the natural environmental of the countryside of Tuscany (24 hours). Students are required to prepare short presentations on different topics on the basis of recent scientific paper concerning the topics. Each presentation is followed by discussion. Possible field visit to a farm.

The other classes (12 hours) will be held at the Faculty of Economics during the first week of April.

Assessment

Assessment will be carried out through a written exam, and oral presentation prepared on a topic selected together with the course instructor.

Attending students will be assessed through an oral presentation based on a paper, proposed by instructor and started in Tuscany, and a written exam in Rome in April, consisting of some multiple choice questions. The final grade will be based on the grades of the two types of examination as follows: written exam (40%), oral discussion (60%).

Non-attending students will be assessed 100% on a final written exam.

Textbook and Materials

Reading material on each course topic (handouts, reports, scientific papers and links to websites), will be made available to the students during the course.