

# COURSE OUTLINE

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

|                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            |                              |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>SCHOOL</b>                                                                                                                          | School of Administrative Sciences – University of Peloponnese                                              |                              |                            |
| <b>DEPARTMENT</b>                                                                                                                      | Department of Business Administration and Organizations – MSc «Public Administration and Local Government» |                              |                            |
| <b>LEVEL OF STUDIES</b>                                                                                                                | Postgraduate                                                                                               |                              |                            |
| <b>COURSE CODE</b>                                                                                                                     | DEO5122                                                                                                    | <b>SEMESTER OF STUDIES</b>   |                            |
| <b>COURSE TITLE</b>                                                                                                                    | Biocultural Development and Local Communities – 7.5 ECTS                                                   |                              |                            |
| <b>INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES (if credits are awarded to distinct components)</b>                                                 |                                                                                                            | <b>WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS</b> | <b>CREDIT UNITS (ECTS)</b> |
| Lectures                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                            | 2                            | 4                          |
| In-depth seminars – Assignment preparation                                                                                             |                                                                                                            | 1                            | 3.5                        |
|                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            | –                            |                            |
| Add rows if needed. Teaching organisation and methods are described in detail in section «Teaching and Learning Methods – Assessment». |                                                                                                            |                              |                            |
| <b>COURSE TYPE (Background, General Knowledge, Scientific Area, Skills Development)</b>                                                | General Background                                                                                         |                              |                            |
| <b>PREREQUISITE COURSES:</b>                                                                                                           | NO                                                                                                         |                              |                            |
| <b>LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND EXAMINATIONS:</b>                                                                                       | Greek<br>Erasmus students may submit assignments and be examined in English.                               |                              |                            |
| <b>COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS</b>                                                                                              | NO                                                                                                         |                              |                            |
| <b>COURSE WEB PAGE (URL)</b>                                                                                                           | <a href="http://ddta.uop.gr/index.php">http://ddta.uop.gr/index.php</a>                                    |                              |                            |

## 2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>"Sustainable Development" (Local Sustainable Development Policies) has an inherent dynamic for understanding the basic mechanisms of micro-space development, as well as the diversity in philosophy between contemporary multicultural centres of globalisation (Mega-Cities) and small localities, and for understanding the causes of this diversity.</p> <p>In a period of crisis, the utilisation of Culture as a tool for development and for addressing the multifaceted problems facing contemporary societies is indispensable. Organisations such as the UN, the EU and UNESCO turn to the arts and cultural heritage as powerful tools to support society and the economy both in the Western world and in "developing" countries.</p> <p>The aim of the course is for postgraduate students to come to know and understand the natural and cultural factors that contribute to the sustainable development of places (settlements, cities, regions, states), and to enable them to evaluate whether a place (settlement, city, region, state) has the potential to become sustainable and in what way. Upon successful completion of this course, postgraduate students will have acquired:</p> |
| <b>General Competences</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

The course aims to develop in particular the following general competences:

- Search, analysis and synthesis of data and information, using the necessary technologies
- Adaptation to new situations
- Decision-making
- Teamwork
- Respect for the natural, cultural and social environment
- Critical thinking
- Promotion of free, creative and inductive thinking
- Project design and management

### **Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes.**

Upon completion of the course, postgraduate students will be able to further research and present, with a critical and synthetic approach, the relevant topics, specifically:

#### **They will have the required Knowledge to:**

- understand and define the concept and content of Sustainable Cultural Development and critically and synthetically evaluate their contribution to the protection of the environment and the quality of life;
- explore in depth and analyse the new trends and models being formed in the world and Europe with regard to Sustainable Development and the Cultural environment;
- understand and critically explore the implications of the problems/crises facing contemporary societies, whether cities or local communities;
- critically evaluate available types of local development plans and programmes, and design and propose innovative sustainable development solutions and plans.

#### **Skills to:**

- thoroughly analyse the available methods for developing sustainable cultural development plans by locality;
- identify and propose methods and solutions for contemporary cities, as well as their advantages and disadvantages;
- explain and analyse to non-specialists the new trends and models being formed in Europe and the world regarding Natural and Cultural Environment and Sustainable Development issues;
- know the basic steps for developing biocultural development policies to organise actions aimed at linking and leveraging the Natural, Social and Cultural Environment for the development of a place.

### **3. COURSE CONTENT**

Interpretation of the terms Local Community, Sustainable Development. Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development. Objectives and International Conferences on Sustainable Development (Stockholm Conference, Brundtland Report, Rio Conference, Habitat Agenda, etc.). Core objectives and implementation of Local Agenda 21. Factors contributing to the Sustainable Development of places. Sustainability of cities, local communities, and regions.

Within the framework of the course, we will examine with a critical spirit, using the Socratic Method:

#### **UNIT A.**

- The formation and functioning of contemporary society through classical and contemporary sociological and cultural theory;
- "Development" on the horizon of global and local sustainability, in combination with the basic characteristics of local communities (networks, Network Theory, Civil Society).

#### **UNIT B.**

- The variety of legal and political frameworks — from universal human rights to global policy initiatives — in relation to the contemporary needs of multicultural societies. The migration and refugee issue in Western societies;
- How contemporary cities are shaped and how they address the contemporary problems of their societies, up to the formulation of intercultural sustainable development plans. The model of the Human Intercultural City.

#### UNIT C.

- The dimensions of integrated sustainable development and understanding its connection to local communities on the horizon of the 4th Industrial Revolution;
- Knowledge and in-depth understanding of the critical role of culture as a factor that organically permeates all dimensions and all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

#### UNIT D.

- The field of cultural management, which encompasses:
  1. Cultural and Creative Industries (within the framework of the Frankfurt School): pop culture – popular culture – mass culture – subcultures
  2. Analysis and design of cultural policy at the local level (cities/communities)
  3. Strategic management of the cultural environment, archaeological sites, historic places, monuments, etc., and the products of contemporary Art and the cultural industry
  4. The design of biocultural development within the framework of participatory processes
  5. The formulation of cultural tourism plans in the context of sustainable development and the strengthening of social cohesion.

### 4. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS – ASSESSMENT

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>DELIVERY MODE</b><br><b>Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.</b> | <p>Teaching is conducted through synchronous distance learning using the university's educational platform. All methods of asynchronous education and teaching are also utilised through the e-class electronic platform. Specifically, it includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lectures and Discussions with MSc participants using the Socratic Method, via synchronous distance learning (accounting for 75% of the course's ECTS)</li> <li>▪ Examination of Case Studies, simulation exercises for practical application</li> <li>▪ In-depth examination of Research Papers published in International Scientific Journals, via asynchronous distance learning (accounting for 25% of the course's ECTS)</li> </ul> <p>The final examination of the course takes place in the form of a take-home paper.</p> <p><b>In the ASSESSMENT of each intermediate and final ASSIGNMENT, the following will be taken into account:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Completeness and academic rigour: analysis of the subject matter; appropriate scope; documentation of positions and views; correct use of bibliographic references.</li> <li>b) Structure and organisation: clear and well-defined main components; logically organised argumentation; full expression of ideas; smooth transition between individual topics.</li> <li>c) Linguistic clarity and accuracy: correct use of scientific terminology; clarity of expression; correct syntax and spelling.</li> <li>d) Originality and creativity: original synthesis; logical conclusions; personal views, proposals, and applications.</li> </ol> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Communication with students takes place via email e.bitsani@go.uop.gr and through the e-class platform.</li><li>- There is an evaluation process for both the course and the instructor at the end of each semester, in accordance with existing regulations and the procedures established by the Institution under the supervision of the Quality Assurance Unit.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                               |  |
| <b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES</b><br>Use of ICT in Teaching, Laboratory Education, Communication with students                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Support of the learning process through the e-class electronic platform; all educational material and lectures are posted on the e-class/open class multimedia platform and made immediately available to students.                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| <b>TEACHING ORGANISATION</b><br>Teaching methods and modes are described in detail. Lectures, Seminars, Laboratory Exercise, Field Work, Study & Analysis of Bibliography, Tutorial, Placement, Clinical Exercise, Artistic Workshop, Interactive Teaching, Educational Visits, Project, Writing of paper(s), Artistic Creation, etc. | <b>Activity</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Semester Workload</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Lectures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 83                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Practical exercises focusing on applying methodologies and case-study analysis in smaller student groups                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 56                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Individual Assignments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 56                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Independent Study                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Note: Record the hours of student study for each learning activity as well as the hours of non-guided study, so that the total semester workload corresponds to the ECTS standards.                                                                                                                                                   | Course Total<br>(30–35 hours of workload per credit unit)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 225                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| <b>STUDENT ASSESSMENT</b><br>Description of the assessment procedure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | The final grade of the course is composed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Performance and participation of students in course lectures (10%)</li><li>o Intermediate exercises/assignments from asynchronous education (20%)</li><li>o Take-home paper with presentation, which serves as an oral examination (70%)</li></ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>c) Linguistic clarity and accuracy: correct use of scientific terminology; clarity of expression; correct syntax and spelling.</li><li>d) Originality and creativity: original synthesis; logical conclusions; personal views, proposals, and applications.</li><li>e) Case-study performance: research evidence; ability to synthesise theory and practice; accuracy in presenting the key points of the examination and analysis of the case study.</li><li>f) Original presentation and development of ideas and</li></ul> |  |

## 5. RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bitsani, E., Tsekos, T., Thymi, I., & Marava, G. (2026). The biocultural city as a utopia or the future reality?: Models, policies, and the city of Ixelles [Monograph]. Springer. doi.org
- Karagkounis, V. (2024). Community work and local communities: Development, collective action, multiculturalism. Topos Publications. [in Greek]
- Bitsani, E., & Thymi, I. (2022). Biocultural approach and digital strategy of cultural organisations: Towards a renewed proximity through the pandemic. *Public Administration Review*, 2(1), 74–96. *University of Nicosia Law Journals*. [in Greek]
- Prodromidis, P., Marcellou, A., Bellis, V., Oikonomou, F., Reziti, I., Rodousakis, N., Stamoulis, C., & Chymis, A. (2024). New paths of development and innovation in the Regional Unit of Karditsa (Special Publication No. 1). Centre for Planning and Economic Research (KEPE). [in Greek]
- Psicharis, I., & Pantazis, F. (2022). Regional development and cohesion policy: Theory and Greek experience. Kritiki Publications. [in Greek]

### Foreign-Language Bibliography

- Cavallaro, M., & Nijkamp, P. (2023). Local culture and sustainable community development: A spatial perspective. *Journal of Regional Research*, 55(2), 115–132.
- Kenny, S., & Connors, P. (2021). *Developing communities for the future* (6th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- Phillips, R., & Pittman, R. H. (Eds.). (2024). *An introduction to community development* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
- Thymi, I., Bitsani, E., & Spiliopoulou, I. (2025). The regeneration of historic city centres as a key factor of urban sustainable development: Case study of Kalamata's historic centre. *Pelopas: Interdisciplinary Journal of the University of the Peloponnese*, 9(1), 45-62.
- UNESCO and Sustainable Development Goals. (2020). Retrieved from <https://en.unesco.org/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>
- Ruggerio, C. A. (2021). *Sustainability and sustainable development: A review of principles and definitions*. Science of the Total Environment. Elsevier.
- United Nations, AGENDA 2030. <https://unric.org>