**MASTER OF ARTS IN ISLANDS AND SMALL STATES STUDIES**  
**Major Area: Environmental Studies**  
**40 ECTS**

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STUDY UNIT CODE: ISS 5001
OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS FOR ISLANDS AND SMALL STATES

Lecturers: Prof. Victor Axiak/Dr Sandro Lanfranco
Credits Assigned: 16 ECTS
Semester: First Semester

Method of Assessment:
• Course work assignments with a weighting of 30%
• Written examination with a weighting of 70%

Course Work Assignments: As course work, students will be expected to respond to 8 assignments set by the lecturer/s or tutor/s, by writing 8 essays (minimum 2000 words each) on subjects related to the main themes of study unit.

Course Description:
This study unit introduces the student to the most important environmental concerns of islands and small states as identified in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States. The topics to be covered include:
Background: From Barbados to Mauritius
• Climate change
• Waste management
• Water resources,
• Coastal zone ,
• Conservation,
• Spatial planning,
• Agriculture and fisheries,
• Mineral resources,
• Alternative energy,
• Nature conservation,
• Pollution
• Sustainable Tourism

Reading:
UNEP, (1998). *Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation Concepts, Methods and Appropriate Use.* Riso National Laboratory, Denmark


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Study Unit Code: ISS 5004
 INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT LAW AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY

Lecturers: Dr Kevin Aquilina and Dr Simone Borg
Credits Assigned: 8 ECTS
Semester: Second Semester

Method of Assessment:
- Course work assignments with a weighting of 30%
- Written examination with a weighting of 70%

Course Work Assignments: As course work, students will be expected to respond to 6 assignments set by the lecturer/s or tutor/s, by writing 6 essays (minimum 2000 words each) on subjects related to the main themes of study unit.

Course Description:
This study unit provides students with an advanced understanding of environmental and law and diplomacy and other environmental agreements between states. Special reference will be made to instruments of interest to small island developing states. The topics to be covered include:
- Contemporary international environmental issues
- Overview of the major developments in international environmental law
- Basic environmental law principles and approaches:
  - Soft law, hard law and compliance
- The concept of sustainable development in international law
- Environmental treaties under international and national law as well as environmental diplomacy and multilateral negotiations

Reading:
FREESTONE, R., and DAVID., (1991), International Law and Global Climate Change, Graham & Trotman

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Study Unit Code: ISS 5012
**ECOLOGY AND THE BIO-GEOGRAPHY OF ISLANDS**

**Lecturers:** Prof. Patrick Schembri/Mr George Said  
**Credits Assigned:** 8 ECTS  
**Semester:** Second Semester

**Method of Assessment:**  
- Course work assignments with a weighting of 30%  
- Written examination with a weighting of 70%

**Course Work Assignments:** As course work, students will be expected to respond to 6 assignments set by the lecturer/s or tutor/s, by writing 6 essays (minimum 2000 words each) on subjects related to the main themes of study unit.

This study unit will attempt to familiarise students with advanced ecological and bio-geography of islands and attempts to explore the nature of the interaction of organisms with both their physical surroundings and with members of their own and of other species. Having established the principles, these will be used to gain an understanding of the particulars of island ecology and biogeography, which often present unique features. The topics to be covered include:

- Basic ecological concepts;
- Populations and population growth;
- Interspecific interactions (competition, predation);
- Ecological niches; communities and ecosystems; community structure;
- Succession; food chains and trophic levels; production; nutrient cycling.
- The effect of isolation, size and availability of resources (type and quantity)
- The rate at which evolutionary processes operate on islands
- Phenomena such as unbalanced biotas, island nanism and gigantism and high endemism
- Susceptibility to habitat changes, introduction of predators and competitors and human activities
- Vulnerability of island ecosystems environmental mismanagement.

**Reading:**  
Study Unit Code: ISS 5014
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Lecturers: Dr Saviour Formosa and others
Credits Assigned: 8 ECTS
Semester: First Semester

Method of Assessment:
- Course work assignments with a weighting of 30%
- Written examination with a weighting of 70%

Course Work Assignments: As course work, students will be expected to respond to 6 assignments set by the lecturer/s or tutor/s, by writing 6 essays on subjects related to the main themes of study unit.

Course Description:
This study unit examines the advanced social responses to the linkages between natural processes and anthropogenic activities, particularly in circumstances where resources are limited and land-use conflict is prevalent. The course will attempt to provide students with a advanced understanding of the key issues, institutions, policies and actors in the environmental and planning sectors, as well as the instruments and tools used for environmental planning and management. With regard to environmental management, the course will focus on waste, water and coastal zone management. The course will enable students to examine the processes of environmental and spatial planning policy development from the research and analysis phase, through formulation, implementation and evaluation. This unit will encourage students to approach critically concepts that are often taken for granted, formulating their own views and to expressing them convincingly. For these reasons, part of the course will be in the form of a seminar, and a field visit and practical training in public consultation will be undertaken.

The topics to be covered include:
- Institutions, actors and the environment in Malta
- EU environmental policy
- Managing Environmental Resources (Water, Waste, Biodiversity, Coastal etc.)
- Spatial planning
- Using GIS for environmental planning and management
- Policy Integration and sustainable development

Reading:

Water Resources Management

*Coastal Zone Management*

*Waste Management*

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