



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Engineering

**MESS48, Societal Resilience, 7.5 credits**  
*Samhällssäkerhet och resiliens, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 2014-06-24 to be valid from 2014-09-01, autumn semester 2014.

### General Information

The course constitutes a 3rd term elective (non-compulsory) course at LUMES, Lund University Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

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*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

#### Knowledge and understanding

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate understanding of the main challenges to the safety and sustainability of society and the importance and utility of concepts of resilience in this context.

#### Competence and skills

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate ability to analyse societal resilience as an emergent property based on society's ability to anticipate, recognise, adapt and learn.
- demonstrate ability to improve societal resilience with consideration to human conditions and needs and to societal goals for economic, social and ecological sustainable development.

- demonstrate ability to orally and in writing formulate, present and discuss own conclusions, as well as the underlying assumptions and arguments, concerning complex issues of societal resilience.

### **Judgement and approach**

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate ability to reflect on scientific, societal and ethical issues concerning risk, resilience, safety and sustainability in our uncertain, complex, ambiguous and dynamic world.
- demonstrate ability to identify own needs of further knowledge and skills for a safer and more sustainable world.

### **Course content**

The course provides the students with understanding of society's challenges and necessary functions for resilience in relation to various events threatening safety and sustainability, as well as ability and approaches to contribute to societal resilience through disaster risk management and climate change adaptation for sustainable development in a changing world.

The course also provides a foundation for students interested in research in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation for a safe and sustainable society.

### **Course design**

The course is designed with particular focus on critical thinking in relation to societal safety and sustainability. It is structured in modules with a lecture and a seminar or roleplay designed to illuminate central concepts, questions, challenges and functions for societal resilience. The seminars and roleplay follow two case studies from countries with different conditions and are based on literature, movies and case study material, as well as specific questions for reflection and dialogue.

Seminars, presentations and individual assignments are compulsory. Attendance at seminars and roleplay are compulsory unless there are special reasons. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control; e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed classes because of activities as a student representative.

### **Assessment**

The course is examined by a written individual course paper and approved portfolio of assignments to mandatory seminars. The portfolio examination also includes peer assessment.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

Students who fail a test have the right to re-examination. If necessary, a second re-examination will be arranged at a later date. A student who has taken two examinations in a course or a part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Students getting a passing grade cannot re-take an exam or re-submit a paper to get a higher grade.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## **Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five.

The grades awarded for the individual course paper as well as for the course as a whole are Fail-3-4-5. The portfolio is examined Pass-Fail. The highest grade for the course as a whole is 5 and the lowest passing grade is 3. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. The grade 5 denotes outstanding performance in all learning outcomes. The grade 4 signifies very good performance in all learning outcomes. To receive the grade 3, the student must obtain a minimum criteria in fulfilling all course learning objectives. The grade of Fail signifies that the student has not fulfilled the learning outcomes of the course, or that additional work is required before the grade can be awarded.

At the beginning of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes of the course and about the grading scale.

## **Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least forty higher education credits in the LUMES, Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science (120 credits).

## Subcourses in MESS48, Societal Resilience

Applies from H14

1401 Societal Resilience, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five