

HEKM20, Human Ecology: Transdisciplinary Critical Theories of Science, Part 1, 7.5 credits

Humanekologi: Kritisk tvärvetenskaplig vetenskapsteori, del 1, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Human Geography on 2015-02-03 and was last revised on 2016-06-07 (STYR 2016/823). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2016-08-29 and is valid from the autumn semester 2016.

General information

The course is offered within the first semester of the Master's programme in Human Ecology: Culture, Power and Sustainability (120 credits), and within the first semester of the Master's programme in Human Geography (120 credits).

Language of instruction: English

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
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Human Ecology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
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Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge of key concepts and debates in theories of science,
- an understanding of conventional and critical positions in theories of science.
- an understanding of transdisciplinarity,
- an understanding of the situated nature of scientific knowledge,

Competence and skills

- skills in reflecting upon how different theories of science may drive the research process in correspondingly different directions,
- skills in critical, active reading and discussion,
- competences to assess how theories of science can guide the research process in different directions,
- the ability to critically analyse the power dimensions inherent in scientific research,
- competences to engage with transdisciplinarity,
- the ability to discuss the ontological and epistemological perspectives that human ecology and cultural geography researchers face,
- the ability to independently search for information on the course themes, critically analyse and evaluate the information and its sources and effectively communicate findings,
- skills to select effective methods in order to access the needed information,
- the ability to select correct scientific referencing techniques,

Judgement and approach

- the ability to independently and critically reflect on and engage with transdisciplinarity and conventional as well as critical theories of science.

Course content

The course consists of three interconnected elements, which are particularly addressed in relation to the fields of human ecology and human geography: (1) key concepts in theory of science and central debates and positions in conventional theories of science, (2) the critical potential of transdisciplinarity, and (3) critical theories of science. On the basis of these elements, the course aims to develop the individual students' competences to independently and critically engage with own and others' research practices.

Course design

The course is structured around a series of lectures and seminars. Lectures introduce the theoretical foundations of the topics of the course, supplemented by seminar activities which are designed to encourage the individual student to critically reflect and relate theoretical approaches to real-world developments. Attendance at guest lectures and seminars is compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed through one individual written home assignments and two project presentations at seminars. 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.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The project presentations are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for these components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results.

Final grade is determined by student's performance on the written home assignment.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have been accepted to either the Master's Programme in Human Ecology: Culture, Power and Sustainability (120 credits) or the Master's Programme in Human Geography (120 credits) or equivalent.

Further information

The course can not be included in a degree together with SIMM24, Social Sciences: Social Studies of Science and Other Forms of Knowledge, 7.5 credits.