



Faculty of Social Sciences

## HEKM22, Human Ecology: Methods in Human Ecology, 7.5 credits

*Humanekologi: Metoder i humanekologi, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by the board of the Department of Human Geography on 2015-09-01 and was valid from 2016-01-18, spring semester 2016.

### General Information

The course is taught in the second term of the Master's Programme in Human Ecology: Culture, Power and Sustainability (120 credits).

*Main field of studies*

Human Ecology

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to demonstrate:

#### Knowledge and understanding

- in-depth knowledge of methodology and a range of research methods in the context of human ecological studies,
- an understanding of how the choice and use of methodological approach have implications throughout the full research process, e.g. different implications of quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods approaches (i.e. problem formulation, research design, data analysis and presentation of findings),
- an understanding of problem oriented research, and the assumptions and principles involved in inter- and transdisciplinary methodological approaches,

#### Competence and skills

- the ability to discuss and justify various methodological approaches, concrete research methods and various types of data,
- the ability to prepare and present a coherent research design for various types of research questions, both in written and oral forms,
- the ability to select and apply adequate methods, discuss data and evaluate results,
- the ability to capture, arrange, edit, structure, analyse and present quantitative and qualitative data,
- the ability to critically discuss and assess various related results from different academic research,

### **Judgement and approach**

- the ability to critically reflect upon methodology and a range of research methods in the context of human ecological studies,
- the ability to actively reflect upon methodology and critically assess intersubjectivity in research,
- the ability to critically assess methodology, including assumptions, limits and implications, and alternative approaches.

## **Course content**

The course discusses research design and strategies, the selection of adequate methods, systems thinking and practical applications. It introduces a range of relevant human ecological research methods and indicators of sustainability analyses, and finalizes with a practical application of the taught methods.

## **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, group discussions, students' presentations, seminars and excursions/practical applications 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 a 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 a written individual assignment and a final group project paper/seminar presentation. 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.

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

## **Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is A, and the lowest passing grade is E. 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. 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 accepted onto the course the student must be admitted to the Master's Programme in Human Ecology: Culture, Power and Sustainability (120 credits). To be admitted, students must additionally have been approved in at least one of three assignments on the course HEKM20, Critical interdisciplinary scientific theory, Part 1, 7.5 credits, or equivalent.

## **Further information**

The course can not be included in a degree together with SIMM22, Social Sciences: Research Methods in Social Sciences, 15 credits.

## Subcourses in HEKM22, Human Ecology: Methods in Human Ecology

Applies from V16

1501 Human Ecology: Methods in Human Ecology, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A