

## HEKX20, Human Ecology: Political Ecology, 7.5 credits

*Humanekologi: Politisk ekologi, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

First Cycle / Grundnivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2014-06-12 and was valid from 2015-01-18, spring semester 2015.

### General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course within the field of Human Ecology.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Human Ecology

Human Ecology

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

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### Learning outcomes

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

#### Knowledge and understanding

- interdisciplinary understanding of the local and global politicisation of the environment caused by political, social, cultural, economic and ecological processes and events
- understanding of the complex interrelationship between local and global events and agents
- understanding of the asymmetric power relationships at local and global level that determine who has access to natural resources and functioning ecosystems
- understanding of environmental problems in relation to social exclusion, asymmetric power relationships, resistance and cultural life worlds

### **Competence and skills**

- the ability to analyse local phenomena in relation to external events and explain the emergence of specific and local environmental problems
- the ability to identify important agents in local and global politicised environments
- the ability to analyse the relationship between people's cultural life worlds and approaches to the environment through basic ethnographic methodology
- the ability to communicate the results of his or her learning to different audiences in speech and writing
- understanding of the impact of globalised extraction and consumption patterns, and the commodification of nature on the emergence of environmental problems all over the world

### **Judgement and approach**

- understanding of how environmental problems are not only biophysical events that can be managed technically but are intimately associated with issues of social justice and power

### **Course content**

The course introduces the research field of political ecology as a way of understanding the "politicised environment" and focuses on how local life worlds and environmental problems are related to global events. It introduces several relevant subjects such as environmental anthropology, social movements and resistance, ethnographic methodology, indigenous studies, postcolonial studies, environmental ethics, and more. Theoretical discussions are backed up by empirical case studies from different parts of the world. The knowledge acquired on the course can be put to good use in teaching, journalism, environmental protection and development aid.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, group exercises and study visits. Laboratory exercises and field studies may occur. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the seminars, group exercises, study visits, laboratory exercises and field studies. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have had to be absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

### **Assessment**

The assessment is based on a written exam at the end of the course and continuous assessment through home assignments, seminars and assignments in the context of group discussions, study visits, laboratory exercises and field studies.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course. Within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course, at least two further

examination opportunities will be offered on the same course content. After that, students will be offered further examination opportunities 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 grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. 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**

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: English B (advanced) proficiency

## **Further information**

The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

## Subcourses in HEKX20, Human Ecology: Political Ecology

Applies from V15

1401 Political Ecology, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A