



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

MESC01, Sustainable Development Goals: Knowing, Measuring and Leading, 5 credits

*Globala målen: Kunskap, uppföljning och ledarskap, 5
högskolepoäng*

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies on 2020-04-30 to be valid from 2020-04-30, spring semester 2020.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Environmental Studies and Sustainability
Science

*Depth of study relative to the degree
requirements*

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in
first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of the interconnections between Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, including their history and implementation challenges.
- Demonstrate interdisciplinary understanding of the ways in which SDGs are measured, by goals, indicators and targets across different SDGs.
- Demonstrate understanding and ability to reflect upon different leadership models in decision making and actions on the SDGs.

Competence and skills

- Demonstrate competency in systems thinking, the ability to see how systems (internal/external conditions, processes and people) interact and influence each other and how these systems create and contribute to specific issues and strengths.
- Develop competency in critical thinking, the ability to reframe the definition and solution of a problem.
- Demonstrate the ability to make use of measuring tools to identify the scale of certain sustainability challenges and keep track of and predict the progress and effectiveness of specific measures.
- Develop skills in leadership, communication, facilitation, networking and negotiation relevant to strategic decision-making.

Judgement and approach

- Demonstrate a critical and scientifically grounded approach to Agenda 2030.
- Identify opportunities for engagement with Agenda 2030 in professional and private capacity.

Course content

The course provides an interdisciplinary and state-of the-art perspective on Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, the most ambitious global framework for sustainable development. The course highlights the importance of all the three spheres; biosphere, society and economy for a sustainable development. The course is structured in three interlinked modules, each of which will build the groundwork for comprehension of the next, and all of which will contribute to the overall pedagogic objective of developing an operational understanding of the development synergies and tradeoffs associated with SDGs.

Module 1 – Knowing

The module provides an interdisciplinary understanding of the 17 SDGs and their interlinkages. Students will receive an introduction to the development and history of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The module will focus on systems thinking and guide and facilitate students to deepen their knowledge of SDGs and its targets, as well as synergies and trade-offs between SDGs.

Module 2 – Measuring

The module highlights the importance of assessments and monitoring for decision-making and critically discusses the SDG indicator framework.

Module 3 – Leading

The module provides a basic grasp of the key governance challenges in implementing the SDGs, discusses key concepts in the fields of leadership and organisation, and highlights the importance of developing communication, networking, leadership and negotiation skills relevant to strategic decision-making.

Course design

The teaching is conducted online and consists of lectures, seminars and exercises. Individual and group-based exercises and assignments are combined to stimulate and evaluate the student's ability to conceptualize and analyze specific SDGs and their interlinked biophysical, political, social and economic dynamics at local to global scale. Tools and knowledge introduced in the course are applied to concrete empirical cases

selected by the student.

Assessment

Course assessment is based on three assignments, one for each course module.

Module 1: written group take-home exam (2,5 credits)

Module 2: written individual take-home exam (1,5 credits)

Module 3: written group take-home exam (1 credit)

The different assignments and exercises are linked, giving the student the opportunity to build on, and expand, the work that the student carry out for earlier assignments in this course. Aside from evaluating the students learning, the assignments seek to develop concrete skills that the student will be able to use in a variety of future career settings.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus. 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.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

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 grade awarded for the written group take-home exam in module 3 is Fail or Pass. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results. The grade awarded for the written group take-home exam in module 1, and for the written individual take-home exam in module 2, is Fail-5-4-3.

The highest grade for the course as a whole is 5 and the lowest passing grade is 3. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to 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 minimum criteria in fulfilling all course learning outcomes. The grade 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 start of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and the grading scale and how it is applied on the course.

Overall course grade:

The grade for the entire course consists of the average grade of the two assignments that are assessed according to the Fail-5-4-3 grading scale. The written group take-home exam in module 1 is worth 50% of the final grade. The written individual take-home exam in module 2 is worth 50% of the final grade. For a grade of 3 on the entire course the student must have been awarded at least 3 or Pass on all assignments.

Exam	Credits	Grading scale	Worth of overall course grade
Written group take-home exam (module 1)	2,5	Fail-3-4-5	50%
Written individual take-home exam (module 2)	1,5	Fail-3-4-5	50%
Written group take-home exam (module 3)	1	Fail-Pass	-
Total	5		100%

Example: The student got grade 3 on the exam in module 1 and grade 5 on the exam in module 2 (and has Passed the exam in modul 3). The final grade is 4 as $((3*50)+(5*50))/100=4,0$

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have fulfilled course requirements of 60 higher education credits. Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines. International students are exempted from the general entry requirement of proficiency in Swedish.

Subcourses in MESC01, Sustainable Development Goals: Knowing, Measuring and Leading

Applies from V20

- 2001 Module 1: written group take-home exam, 2,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five
- 2002 Module 2: written individual take-home exam, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five
- 2003 Module 3: written group take-home exam, 1,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass