



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

MESS42, Water and Sustainability, 7.5 credits

Vatten och hållbarhet, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies on 2013-10-22 to be valid from 2014-08-31, autumn semester 2014.

General Information

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

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

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 demonstrate

- a profound knowledge and understanding of the complexity of the environmental, social and economic roles of water in society, and the underlying reasons for problems and conflicts over water
- a deepened knowledge and understanding of the properties of the hydrological cycle, including the anthropogenic interferences and climate change impacts from global to local levels;
- a profound comprehension of various inter and/or trans-disciplinary theoretical and methodological approaches and tools that are commonly used for assessing problems and conflicts related to water, and
- an advanced ability to discuss and assess factors influencing the selection of water management strategies including integrated water resource management

Course content

The overall themes of the course are water in society and water in an ecosystem. The themes are covered significantly through a variety of scientific readings and reflection that exemplify different approaches and perspectives for analysing and interpreting present and future water resource availability, the political ecology of water resource challenges, water-related vulnerability and adaptation measures, and uncertainties in climate modelling coupled to freshwater resources.

Other aspects covered in the course include the multitude of approaches of how water is perceived, e.g., water as a human right, water as an economic good, and the implications of these approaches on management and use practices. Furthermore, the course presents and discusses the on-going reformations of water resource planning, policies and laws focusing on principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM), and associated techniques in, for example, the EU and the Global South. Several concepts highlighted that address the interdisciplinary nature of freshwater including green-blue water; virtual water and water footprint assessment are further discussed. Course field excursions emphasise regional and local water use and management perspectives in practice.

Course design

The course is comprised of lectures, seminars, class excursions, group discussions, and may include student presentations, and individual assignments/papers.

Consistent, regular class attendance and fully engaged participation is expected from all students in LUMES. Attendance at the sessions where graded course activities take place is compulsory to pass the course.

Assessment

For a passing grade the student must (a) have an overall passing mark on the individual assignments; (b) have an overall pass on combined group work and individual assignments; (c) have participated in the mandatory sessions.

Students who fail a test have the right to re-examination. An opportunity for re-examination will be offered after the end of the course. 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 pass mark 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 in examinations are 5 - 4 - 3 - Fail. The highest grade 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 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 of "3", the student must obtain 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 credit can be awarded.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least 40 credits in the LUMES programme.

Further information

This course cannot be included in a degree together with MESS12.

The syllabus was adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University, on December 13, 2012.

Subcourses in MESS42, Water and Sustainability

Applies from H14

1201 Water and Sustainability, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five