



Faculty of Social Sciences

MESS52, Sustainability and Global Health, 7.5 credits

Hållbarhet och global hälsa, 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 2015-01-13 and was last revised on 2024-02-02 (STYR 2024/333). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-02-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

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

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

Specialisation

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

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate deep understanding of some of the key global human health challenges facing the planet in the 21st century,
- demonstrate deep understanding of the global and local origins of these growing and/or persisting health problems, taking into account historical, social, cultural, economic and geo-ecological aspects
- demonstrate understanding for and be able to critically examine the global origins of these emerging and/or persisting health challenges, taking into account both historical, social, cultural, economic and geo-ecological aspects

Competence and skills

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate ability to apply different health perspectives on complex socio-ecological systems
- demonstrate ability to identify and discuss the global and local origins of these growing and/or persisting health problems, taking into account historical, social, cultural, economic and geo-ecological aspects
- demonstrate ability to orally and in writing formulate, present and discuss own conclusions, as well as the underlying assumptions and arguments, concerning the imperative of human health for social, economic and environmental sustainability
- be able to exemplify, compare and contrast between the feasibility and sustainability of different tools, technologies and approaches to respond to these key health challenges today and in the future

Judgement and approach

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate ability to reflect on scientific, societal and ethical issues concerning health and sustainability
- demonstrate ability to identify needs of further knowledge and skills for improving ability to analyze complex socio-ecological systems in an interdisciplinary manner

Course content

The course provides global and local perspectives on and examples of some of the most urgent health problems we face today and their impact on people's health, well-being and livelihoods.

The course deals with the connections between three important areas of study in sustainability studies: development, environment and global health. Four areas are treated in more depth: health impact of climate change, issues of sanitation, dietary questions and questions concerning the links between consumption, waste and health in a global perspective.

By highlighting four key emerging and persistent global health challenges, the course provides a deeper understanding of the importance of good health for social, economic and environmental sustainability:

1. health impacts of present and future climate change e.g. malnutrition, issues of sanitation, heat-stress, extreme cold, flooding, and rising incidence of vector borne-diseases;
2. the prevailing global sanitation crisis and its social, economic and environmental consequences;
3. the global dietary paradox (obesity in some groups vs. malnutrition and food insecurity in some groups);
4. the health externalities of global manufacturing, consumption, and waste from a global perspective (with a focus on the handling of the electronics we use, produce and waste)

Course design

The course is comprised of lectures, seminars, documentary film viewings, class excursions, group discussions, student presentations and an individual written assignment aimed at covering all four key thematic health challenges. Each of the four key thematic health challenges will be covered. The final part of the course is dedicated to group work and a final day of oral presentations.

Compulsory components

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in four seminars. 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 been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

Course assessment is based on three exams:

- Written group take-home exam, 2 credits
- Oral in-class group exam (presentation), 1 credit
- Written individual take-home exam, 4,5 credits

To receive a passing grade on the course the student must also have participated in the compulsory components, four seminars.

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.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Three, Four, Five

The compulsory components are exempted from the grading scale above. The grade awarded for these components are Participated. For the grade of Participated, the student must show acceptable results.

The highest grade for the course is Five and the lowest grade for passing is Three. Grades for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's results are assessed with reference to learning outcomes of the course. For grade Five, the student must show an excellent result in all learning outcomes. For the grade Four, the student must show a very good result in all learning outcomes. For the grade Three, the student must show a sufficiently good result in all learning outcomes. The grade Fail means that the student has not reached the learning outcomes of the course. 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 three exams that are assessed according to the Fail-5-4-3 grading scale. The written group take-home exam is worth 25% of the final grade, the oral (in-class) group exam is worth 15% of the final grade, and the written individual take-home exam is worth 60% of the final grade. For a grade of 3 on the entire course the student must have been awarded at least grade 3 on all exams. The student must also have participated in the compulsory components to pass the course.

Exam	Credits	Grading scale	Part of final grade for the course
Written group take-home exam	2	Fail-3-4-5	25%
Oral (in-class) group exam	1	Fail-3-4-5	15%
Written individual take-home exam	4,5	Fail-3-4-5	60%
Seminar 1 (compulsory component)	-	Participated	-
Seminar 2 (compulsory component)	-	Participated	-
Seminar 3 (compulsory component)	-	Participated	-
Seminar 4 (compulsory component)	-	Participated	-
	7,5		100%

Example: The student got the grade of grade 3 on the written group take-home exam, the grade of 4 on the oral (in house) group exam, and the grade of 5 on the written individual take-home exam (and the grade of Participated on the compulsory component). The final grade is 4 $((3*25)+(4*15)+(5*60))/100 = 4,35$

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least forty higher education credits in the LUMES, Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science (120 credits).

Further information

The course was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on February 5, 2015. This course cannot be included in a degree together with MESS22, Environment and Health, 7,5 credits.