



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SGEM14, Human Geography: Urban and Regional Planning for Sustainability, 15 credits**

*Samhällsgeografi: Hållbarhetsaspekter i urban och regional  
planering, 15 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 to be valid from 2012-01-01, spring semester 2012.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as an interdisciplinary single subject course in human geography on the master's level.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Human Geography

*Depth of study relative to the degree  
requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle  
course/s as entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

After completion of the course, students will have developed an advanced knowledge base enabling them to critically examine the role of planning in social and economic processes of change and to independently analyse aspects of sustainability relevant to planning at various geographical scales.

Upon completion of the course, participants should have:

- knowledge about linkages between planning theory, human geographic theory and sustainable development;
- in-depth understanding of social, economic, and ecological aspects of sustainability;
- knowledge and understanding of policy dimensions of sustainability and their impact on practical planning at local and regional as well as national and transnational scales;

- ability to critically analyse and apply different dimensions of sustainability to various fields of planning practice, such as transportation, housing, land use and provision of services facilities;
- ability to critically assess different planning discourses and practices in managing sustainability; and
- skills to independently search information on the course themes, critically analyze the information and effectively communicate findings, not least in interactions with professional planners.

## Course content

The course consists of two related parts. The first part focuses on social, economic and ecological aspects of sustainability, based on critical analyses of theoretical approaches to, discourses on and political strategies for sustainability in various geographical contexts. The second part, based on an overview of planning theory, concentrates on political and practical challenges faced by planning systems at different geopolitical scales, especially urban and regional. Issues concerning management of different aspects of sustainability in planning are explored, such as: securing good living conditions in different spatial contexts; bringing conflicts and congruencies between economic growth and ecological considerations to the surface; achieving sustainability without threatening societal goals concerning social and economic cohesion, equality and “fair” distribution of resources.

## Course design

The course will be given in the form of lectures, seminars, individual studies and fieldtrips. Lectures will introduce the theoretical frame of each theme of the course, and will be followed up by field trips and practice-oriented workshops and meetings with planning authorities focusing on concrete cases in urban and regional planning. The latter will be used as “laboratories” for hands-on testing of theories, models and concepts presented in the course literature and lectures. Students are expected to have read and reflected upon relevant course literature prior to lectures and seminars, and to take an active role in workshops and fieldtrips.

## Assessment

Lectures, seminars and fieldtrips are conducted in English and examination and other assignments are to be written in English.

The course is assessed through written individual examination, seminar participation, project assignments presented at seminars and active participation in the course in its entirety.

*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.

Re-examination will be provided 4-6 weeks after the end of the course. Examination will be given during the academic year only.

## **Entry requirements**

The course builds on previous studies in social sciences. To be qualified the student must have three semesters (60 Swedish credits or 90 ECTS-credits) of studies in at least one discipline in social sciences, economics and management, social science-oriented disciplines in humanities, or another corresponding educational background.

A high level of proficiency in the English language is necessary (IELTS with a minimum of 6.0 (none of the sections under 5.0), or TOEFL with a minimum of 550 p (computer-based test 213 p)).

## Subcourses in SGEM14, Human Geography: Urban and Regional Planning for Sustainability

Applies from V12

1101 Urban and Regional Planning for Sustainability, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A