

HEKM21, Human Ecology: Transdisciplinary Critical Theories of Science, Part 2, Applications, 7.5 credits

*Humanekologi: Kritisk tvärvetenskaplig vetenskapsteori, del 2 - tillämpningar, 7,5
högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Human Geography on 2015-02-03 and was last revised on 2016-06-07 (STYR 2016/823). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2016-08-29 and is valid from the autumn semester 2016.

General information

The course is offered within the first semester of the Master's programme in Human Ecology: Culture, Power and Sustainability (120 credits).

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

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

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- an intimate knowledge of the main critical theories of science within Human Ecology,
- an in depth understanding of how the interplay between humans and nature is coupled to social power and categories such as class, gender, ethnicity, culture and position in the world system,
- deepened insights into transdisciplinary sciences' opportunities and problems in relation to the traditional divide between natural and social sciences,

- an understanding of how theoretical preconceptions of the scientific research process can influence and reshape each other,

Competence and skills

- the ability to discuss and analyse chosen research questions within the framework of the critical theories of science dealt with in the course,
- the ability to apply selected concepts from one or more critical theories of science to research projects,
- the ability to bring the ideals of transdisciplinarity to concrete research designs,
- the ability to motivate the choice of methodology in the light of theories of science,
- the ability to discern and discuss the theoretical perspectives,
- the ability to independently search for information on the course themes, critically analyse and evaluate the information and its sources and effectively communicate findings,
- the ability to conduct independent research with an understanding of the theoretical dimensions of scientific endeavour,

Judgement and approach

- the ability to actively reflect upon how different theories of science may drive the research process in different directions,
- the ability to independently and critically reflect upon and engage with transdisciplinarity within conventional as well as critical theories of science,
- a capacity to reflect critically upon mainstream perspectives within environmental science, as well as upon alternative narratives.

Course content

The course builds directly on Transdisciplinary Critical Theory of Science, Part 1. While Part 1 introduces the students to key concepts and debates in theories of science, the potentials of transdisciplinarity and the situated nature of scientific knowledge, Part 2 takes the student deeper into the issues at hand, to engage more closely with critical theories of science and apply concepts to concrete research questions, in active dialogue with fellow students and teachers. Each student will focus on one of several schools of critical theory of science, such as those developed in political ecology, gender studies and postcolonialism. The work will be presented and discussed at seminars devoted to the respective theories.

Course design

The course is structured around a series of lectures and seminars. Lectures introduce the theoretical foundations of the topics of the course, supplemented by seminar activities which are designed to encourage the individual student to critically reflect and relate theoretical approaches to real-world developments. Attendance at guest lectures and seminars is compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have

missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a written individual home assignment and two group project presentations at seminars. Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

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.

The project presentations are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for these components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results.

Final grade is determined by student's performance on the written home assignment.

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

To be accepted onto the course the student must be admitted to the Master's Programme in Human Ecology: Culture, Power and Sustainability (120 credits). To be admitted, students must additionally have been approved in at least one of three assignments on the course HEKM20, Critical interdisciplinary scientific theory, Part 1, 7.5 credits, or equivalent.