

HEKM41, Human Ecology: Master's (One Years) Thesis Course, 15 credits

Human Ecology: Master's (One Years) Thesis Course, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Human Geography on 2016-09-06 (STYR 2016/1121). The syllabus comes into effect 2017-01-16 and is valid from the spring semester 2017.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course and constitutes the degree project of a degree of Master (One Year) in Human Ecology, 60 credits.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Human Ecology	A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)
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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- understanding of the fragmentation of knowledge systems among different scientific disciplines, and the merits and challenges of producing trans-disciplinary knowledge,
- understanding of how cultural concepts and conceptions about nature and society, including those generated by science, can serve as ideologies legitimizing or criticizing different kinds of social relations, for instance regarding competition, cooperation, power, gender, and diversity,

- knowledge and understanding in the field of human ecology, including both an overview of the field and specialised knowledge in specific areas of the field, and insight into current research and development work,
- specialised methodological knowledge in human ecology,

Competence and skills

- ability to critically and systematically integrate separate scientific perspectives into holistic understandings of human-environmental relations, in order to analyse complex issues, even with access to incomplete information and limited time,
- ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and address complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- ability to independently identify and formulate research propositions, and to plan and with appropriate methods realise advanced tasks within predetermined time frames,
- ability report clearly in speech and writing, and to discuss conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences,
- skills required for participation in research and development work or to work in other qualified capacities,
- ability to apply academic skills such as referencing of sources and use of figures, tables and other means of communication,
- ability to convey scientific information and follow developments in knowledge within human ecology,

Judgement and approach

- ability within human ecology to make assessments in relation to relevant scientific, social and ethical issues, and to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of individuals for how it is used,
- ability to identify the personal needs for further knowledge and take responsibility for own learning.

Course content

The dissertation is an independent piece of work that addresses human-environmental relations and sustainability issues from a trans-disciplinary perspective. The thesis should address a particular issue within the field of Human Ecology, applying theoretical frameworks and research methods to a specific set of empirical data. The research question, theoretical framework, methods, empirical data, and conclusions should be clearly specified. The student should apply perspectives, concepts, and methods learned in earlier courses.

Course design

Teaching is in the form of supervision, group supervision seminars, independent study and seminars. The student is to work independently within a field agreed upon with the supervisor. The hours of supervision are limited to the semester in which the student first registered for the course. Exceptions can be made if there are special grounds. The dissertation is to be written by the individual student but collaboration between two students can be permitted in certain circumstances. The student is to defend his or her dissertation and critically review a fellow student's project at a concluding seminar.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in 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

The course is assessed on the basis of a written degree project, defence and presentation of the project at a seminar and critical review of a fellow student's degree project. The degree project is to be registered in an open access database on a server owned by Lund University. The student independently chooses the level of access.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. 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.

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 students' defence and presentation of his/her own degree project and critical review of a fellow student's degree project 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.

The degree project determines the grade on the course.

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 on the course.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have

- Bachelor's degree including three terms (1-90 credits) of studies in Human Ecology or another subject of relevance to the programme, e.g. anthropology, sociology, geography, environmental studies, or the equivalent.
- passed second-cycle courses in human ecology amounting to 15 credits
- passed second-cycle courses in methodology amounting to 15 credits
- Oral and written proficiency in English corresponding to English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. Assessment of equivalent qualifications will be based on national guidelines.

Further information

The course replaces course HEKM40 - Human Ecology: Master's (60 Credits) Thesis Course, 15 credits.

The course may not be included in a degree together with HEKM40 - Human Ecology: Master's (60 Credits) Thesis Course, 15 credits.