

## **HEKM50, Human Ecology: Master's (120 credits) Thesis, 30 credits**

*Human Ecology: Master's (120 credits) Thesis, 30 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. The syllabus comes into effect 2012-01-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2012.

### **General information**

The course is offered within the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Social Sciences, with a major in Human Ecology – Culture, Power, and Sustainability (SASAM: HUEK).

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*      *Specialisation*

Human Ecology	A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)
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### **Learning outcomes**

Upon 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,

### **Competence and skills**

- the ability to critically and systematically integrate separate scientific perspectives into holistic understandings of human-environmental relations, in order to analyze complex issues, even with access to incomplete information and limited time,
- the ability to skilfully practice a spectrum of quantitative and/or qualitative research methods of relevance to Human Ecology,
- the ability to search, retrieve, and critically analyze substantial volumes of information within the field of Human Ecology,
- the ability to clearly assess, present, and discuss arguments and conclusions in oral and written form in dialogue with specialist and non-specialist groups in national and international contexts,
- the ability to correctly cite and refer to literature and other relevant sources,

### **Judgement and approach**

- the ability to independently and creatively identify, articulate, and pursue competent research problems,
- the ability to select adequate methods for answering different kinds of research questions within the field of Human Ecology,
- the ability to apply relevant ethical principles in relation to the collection and presentation of scientific data.

### **Course content**

The Master's thesis 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.

The student is assigned an advisor while writing the Master's thesis. Further guidelines for the Master's thesis are published by the Master of Science Programme in Social Science (Human Ecology: Culture, Power, and Sustainability).

### **Course design**

Teaching consists of tutoring, mandatory group supervision seminars and a final mandatory seminar where students present and defend their theses.

## Assessment

Examination is based on a thesis presented in a brief lecture and defended at a seminar, and also on participation in discussion and critical review of a fellow student's thesis.

An opportunity for re-examination is offered after the end of the course. The student has the right to participate in examinations during the following terms, but in accordance with the course regulations that apply at the time.

The Master's thesis will be published in the Lund University electronic database for publications.

## Grades

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

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.

## Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course, the student must have achieved at least passing grade in all the courses of the first three semesters of the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Social Sciences, with a major in Human Ecology – Culture, Power, and Sustainability (60 credits).