



Faculty of Social Sciences

HEKN11, Human Ecology: Culture, Economy and Ecology, 15 credits

Human Ecology: Culture, Economy and Ecology, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 and was last revised on 2017-01-31 by the board of the Department of Human Geography (STYR 2017/170). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2017-01-31 and is valid from the autumn semester 2017.

General information

The course is a compulsory component of the Master of Science programme in Human Ecology – Culture, Power and Sustainability (SAHEK), 120 credits, and is also offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

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

Learning outcomes

To pass the examination, students must be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate an advanced understanding of the human dimensions of environment and resource management, particularly regarding how environmental problems are generated, interpreted, and negotiated in different cultural and historical contexts,

Competence and skills

- apply a culturally critical perspective on human-environmental relations while acknowledging the biophysical conditions within which they are enacted,
- apply fundamental perspectives and concepts from environmental history, economic anthropology, environmental anthropology, and world-system analysis,
- integrate separate scientific perspectives into holistic understandings of human-environmental relations,

Judgement and approach

- using a scholarly approach, be able to critically analyse differences between natural, cultural, and political aspects of the conditions for human livelihood and resource management, as well as assess and discuss the relative significance of these aspects in specific contexts.

Course content

The course comprises four modules focusing on distinct themes: Global Environmental History; Economies as Cultural Systems; Symbolic Dimensions of Human-Environmental Relations; and The Political Ecology of the World-System. These four themes will provide the student with essential perspectives and analytical tools to achieve an integrative, transdisciplinary understanding of the cultural and political dimensions of sustainability. The first module provides an overview of how global economic and political processes have transformed human-environmental relations over the past five centuries. The second module helps the student understand how these and other economic relations, ideas, and institutions can be understood as recursively connected to cultural conditions and conceptions. The third module focuses on how human interaction with the environment is embedded in different symbolic perceptions of both human and non-human nature in different cultural contexts. The fourth module synthesizes historical, political, and cultural perspectives into an integrated view of current challenges of sustainability.

Course design

Each module includes lectures and seminars as well as some of the following; group discussions, video presentations and educational visits.

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 assessment mainly consists of a longer, self-penned essay at the end of the course. A part from this, oral presentations and active participation in seminars are also included.

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.

Oral presentations and active participation in seminars 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 student's grade on the course will be determined based on the results of the essay.

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 at least a Bachelor's degree, including three terms (1-90 credits) of studies in Human Ecology or another relevant subject, e.g. anthropology, sociology, geography, environmental studies, or the equivalent. 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, internet based 79) is required. Exemption from Swedish language requirements is granted.