

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

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

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 and was valid from 2012-01-01, spring semester 2012.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as an interdisciplinary single subject course within the main area of studies of Human Ecology in the Master's Programme in Social Sciences with a Major in Human Ecology (SASAM: HUEK).

#### *Main field of studies*

Human Ecology

#### *Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, students should be able to:

- 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,
- analytically distinguish between natural, cultural, and political aspects of the conditions for human livelihood and resource management, and to discuss the relative significance of these aspects in specific contexts,
- apply a cultural relativist 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.

## Course content

The course comprises four concentration 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 concentration module includes lectures and may also include events such as group discussions, video presentations and excursions. Each such period concludes with a summarizing seminar, aiming at integrating lessons and perspectives from the specific themes into the general framework of the course as a whole.

## Assessment

Assessments of the student's progress will be based on oral presentations and active participation in seminars and group discussions, as well as on written reports.

Reports or other assignments can be made after the concentration module in question after agreement with the coordinator.

*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 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 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.

## Subcourses in HEKN11, Human Ecology: Culture, Economy and Ecology

Applies from H12

1101 Culture, Economy and Ecology, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A