

HEKX20, Human Ecology: Political Ecology, 7.5 credits

Humanekologi: Politisk ekologi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2014-06-12 (U 2014/475) and was last revised on 2016-09-06 by the board of the Department of Human Geography (STYR 2016/1121). The revised 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.

Language of instruction: English

*Main field of
study*

Specialisation

Human Ecology

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- interdisciplinary understanding of the local and global politicisation of the environment caused by political, social, cultural, economic and ecological processes and events,
- understanding of the complex interrelationship between local and global events and agents,
- understanding of the asymmetric power relationships at local and global level that determine who has access to natural resources and functioning ecosystems,
- understanding of environmental problems in relation to social marginalization, asymmetric power relationships, resistance and cultural life worlds,

Competence and skills

- the ability to analyse local phenomena in relation to external events and explain the emergence of specific and local environmental problems,
- the ability to identify important agents in local and global politicised Environments,
- the ability to analyse the relationship between people's cultural life worlds and approaches to the environment through basic ethnographic methodology,
- the ability to communicate the results of his or her learning to different audiences in speech and writing,
- understanding of the impact of globalised extraction and consumption patterns, and the commodification of nature on the emergence of environmental problems all over the ,World

Judgement and approach

- understanding of how environmental problems are not only biophysical events that can be managed technically but are intimately associated with issues of social justice and Power.

Course content

The course introduces the research field of political ecology as a way of understanding the "politicised environment" and focuses on how local life worlds and environmental problems are related to global events. It introduces several relevant subjects such as environmental anthropology, social movements and resistance, ethnographic methodology, indigenous studies, postcolonial studies, environmental ethics, and more. Theoretical discussions are backed up by empirical case studies from different parts of the world. The knowledge acquired on the course can be put to good use in teaching, journalism, environmental protection and development co-operation.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, group exercises and study visits. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the seminars, group exercises and study visits. 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 had to be absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The assessment is based on a written home exam at the end of the course.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course. Within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course, at least two further examination opportunities will be offered on the same course content. After that, students will be offered further examination opportunities 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 grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. 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.

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

General requirements for university studies in Sweden