



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **MESS20, Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science: Politics of Sustainability, 7.5 credits**

*Miljö- och hållbarhetsvetenskap: Hållbarhetens politik, 7,5  
högskolepoäng*

**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies on 2022-06-09 to be valid from 2023-01-16, spring semester 2023.

### **General Information**

The course is a second term compulsory course within Lund University Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science (LUMES), 120 credits.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

Upon the completion of the course, the student shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate a deepened understanding of different political processes and systems and their relevance for sustainability challenges
- demonstrate understanding of how different political approaches and issues affect the ability, or lack of ability, to address sustainability challenges on different levels and scales

#### **Competence and skills**

- develop a deepened proficiency in academic writing and independent work,

including the ability to identify, critically analyse, and present sustainability challenges from different political perspectives

- demonstrate the ability to assess political approaches to sustainability challenges as well as be able to present alternative approaches

### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate the ability to discuss and convey different political approaches respectfully and constructively in a multicultural study environment
- show an awareness of how different political approaches, elements, and processes affect our abilities and propensities to address sustainability challenges

### **Course content**

The course addresses political approaches to and perspectives on sustainability issues and place these in relation to the actual ability to address sustainability challenges. It tackles both central political factors as well the creation of alternative pathways towards change. The main focus of the course are:

- the concept of politics, its history and components
- current political forms and challenges in connection to sustainability issues and our ability to address sustainability challenges
- how political actors and processes collaborate or clash on different levels and scales, across time and geographies
- alternative approaches to politically engaged societal change, including addressing central elements of justice, religion, and race.

### **Course design**

The course consists of lectures, seminars, exercises, and oral presentations. Individual and group-based activities are combined in order to stimulate and evaluate the students' ability to identify, understand, and analyse causes, drivers, and consequences of political processes and systems. Theoretical knowledge presented throughout the course is applied on concrete cases of the students' own choosing in the individual written home exam.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the oral presentation of the written group take-home exam. 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**

Course assessment is based on:

- Written group take-home exam (2,5 credits)
- Written individual take-home exam (5 credits)

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. 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. A student who has

taken two examinations in a course or a part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Students getting a passing grade cannot re-take an exam or re-submit a paper to get a higher grade.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five.

The highest grade for the course is Five and the lowest grade for passing is Three. Grades for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's results are assessed with reference to learning outcomes of the course. For grade Five, the student must show an excellent result in all learning outcomes. For the grade Four, the student must show a very good result in all learning outcomes. For the grade Three, the student must show a sufficiently good result in all learning outcomes. The grade Fail means that the student has not reached the learning outcomes of the course.

At the start of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and the grading scale and how it is applied on the course.

The grade for the entire course consists of the average grade of the two exams that are assessed according to the Fail-5-4-3 grading scale. The written group take-home exam is worth 30% of the final grade. The written individual take-home exam is worth 70% of the final grade. For a grade of 3 on the entire course the student must have been awarded at least 3 on both exams.

Exam	Credits	Grades	Part of final grade for the course
Written group take-home exam	2,5	Fail-3-4-5	30%
Written individual take-home exam	5	Fail-3-4-5	70%
Oral presentation of written group take-home exam	-	Fail-Participated	-
Total	7,5		100%

Example: The student got the grade 3 on the written group take-home exam and the grade of 5 on the written individual take-home exam (and participated in the compulsory component). The final grade is 4  $((3*30)+(5*70))/100=4.4 < 4.5$  is rounded down and  $4.5 >$  is rounded up.

## Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least 7,5 higher education credits in the programme.

A good command of spoken and written English, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalent assessments will be made according to national guidelines.

## Further information

The course cannot be included in a degree together with MESS34, Governance of Sustainability, 7,5 credits, or MESS03, Environmental Governance, 7,5 credits.