



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

**MESS25, Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science:
Methods & Tools - from Knowledge to Action, 7.5 credits**
*Miljö- och hållbarhetsvetenskap: Metoder och verktyg - från kunskap
till handling, 7,5 högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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

- discuss participatory methods for sustainability science, including their rationale and focus
- develop a nuanced and critical understanding of participatory processes
- identify and distinguish opportunities and purposes for inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches in solutions-oriented research practice
- express and defend which participatory approach and solutions options may be appropriate for a given solutions-oriented sustainability project.

Competence and skills

- identify and systematically develop a solution orientated project
- demonstrate basic collaborative abilities in a participatory process
- effectively and respectfully engage in small group settings to successfully complete defined tasks
- systematically and respectfully engage with groups to devise interventions to a targeted sustainability challenge
- effectively convey information and knowledge in written form in a manner that abides by academic standards
- effectively discern and convey to an audience salient information and knowledge about a sustainability-relevant project.

Judgement and approach

- determine relevant system interconnections around a sustainability problem, and assess pathways to intervene for more sustainable outcomes
- establish effective courses of action, through inter- and trans-disciplinary collaboration
- assess the potential sustainability impact of solution options in the context of the potential and capacities of the group and the involved stakeholders.

Course content

This course provides opportunities for participants to enhance their knowledge and skills in sustainability science through a deeper comprehension of the strengths and weaknesses of participatory methods. The course is based on transformative student learning whereby students develop knowledge and skills in sustainability problem solving processes through iterative activities such as idea generation, reflecting, theorizing, stakeholder interaction and collaboration with real-world experience to foster action for sustainability. Specifically, the course fuses the knowledge and skills students have gained from the first programme courses with new knowledge and competencies focused on purposeful interaction with different societal actors. The transformative learning component is facilitated through students working with societal actors to create a critical awareness where salient responses to sustainability problems can be devised and tested through group projects. As a key part of this learning process, participants also learn skills in sustainability leadership and systematic collaboration with actors from within and outside of academia, especially those skills and abilities relevant when seeking to devise meaningful responses to sustainability challenges.

Course design

The course consists of interactive student learning activities where participants strategically build the knowledge and skill set needed to identify, structure, and collaborate to develop constructive responses to sustainability challenges. More specifically, the course is designed around a group project where students methodically define and delimit a sustainability problem on a local or regional level. The group work allows participants to engage in real-world settings with societal actors such as municipalities, organizations, companies and/or other students. Subsequently, through a systematic process, participants then create a solution response to the challenge and test it with societal actors. Strengthening student competencies, the course is strategically structured to allow participants to further develop skills to create inclusive and collaborative processes.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in seminar a and seminar b. 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 (5 credits)
- Oral group exam (2,5 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 75% of the final grade. The oral group exam is worth 25% 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	5	Fail-3-4-5	75%
Oral group exam	2,5	Fail-3-4-5	25%

Seminar a	-	Pass-Participated	-
Seminar b	-	Pass-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 oral group exam (and participated in the compulsory components). The final grade is $4 \left((3 \cdot 75) + (5 \cdot 25) \right) / 100 = 3.5$. < 3.5 is rounded down and $3.5 >$ 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 MESS37, From Knowledge to Action, 5 credits, or MESS15, Making Change Happen, 7,5 credits.