



Faculty of Social Sciences

## MESS36, Economy and Sustainability, 7.5 credits

*Ekonomi och hållbarhet, 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 2013-10-22 to be valid from 2014-01-20, spring semester 2014.

### General Information

The main field of study is *Environmental Studies* and *Sustainability Science*. The course constitutes a 2nd term course at LUMES, Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science.

*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

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

- in-depth knowledge of mainstream economics and alternative economic paradigms of sustainability (weak, strong, critical, human development, heterodox economics, etcetera.);
- in-depth knowledge of different strategies for reconciling environmental concerns with requirements of economic growth and development (especially in the Global South), such as privatization and marketization, regulatory arrangements, and civil society initiatives;
- the ability to use the various tools and methods associated with each of the perspectives above such as, environmental economics, ecological economics, (for example, cost-benefit analysis, payment-for-ecosystem-services, monetary evaluation, social choice), etcetera;
- awareness and knowledge of the policy implications and trade-offs involved in each of the perspectives above;

- an understanding of the crucial differences between the Global North and Global South in relation to the conflicting claims of economic growth and environmental protection;
- the ability to critically assess the implicit assumptions, approaches, values, etcetera, in various concrete cases (for example official reports of national and international bodies) and to recognize the practical implications thereof.

## Course content

The course reviews briefly the historical experience and the mainstream theory of modern economic growth and its consequences of environmental degradation. It critically evaluates different paradigms of Sustainable Development, assesses the merits of anti-growth social movements in a North-South context, and weighs the trade-offs within each approach. During the course, students will more specifically:

- Review the mainstream economics of growth, including how tensions between economic growth and environmental protection, for example resource depletion, climate change have come about, and what attempts have been made to address and reconcile these tensions. Based on this understanding, the course then introduces different paradigmatic perspectives on economics, which represent various critiques of the mainstream.
- Delve deeper into the above tensions by addressing the necessity of reconciling the conflicting claims of economic growth and environmental concerns in the context of Sustainable Development (SD). Different perspectives on SD (for example, weak, strong, and critical sustainability, and the human development approach) will be introduced and discussed in detail, including their fundamental theoretical assumptions and limitations, their differing strategies, policy implications, methods, and tools, for addressing the tensions between the imperative of economic growth on the one hand, and environmental and social sustainability on the other.
- Critically address the claims of contemporary anti-growth movements (for example post-growth, de-growth, etcetera), including their differing degrees of relevance to the Global North and South.

Practicing a range of practical qualitative and quantitative methods of research in both fieldwork and deskwork (for example, observation, contingent valuation, questionnaire interviews, etcetera).

## Course design

All topics will be covered through a combination of lectures, class discussions, group projects, fieldwork/excursion, seminars, students' seminars, and individual assignments.

The teaching is comprised of lectures, seminars, group discussions, and can include a class excursion.

Consistent, regular class attendance and fully engaged participation is expected from all students in LUMES. Attendance at the sessions where graded course activities take place is compulsory to pass the course.

## Assessment

For a passing grade the student must (a) have an overall passing mark on the individual assignments; (b) have an overall pass on combined group work and individual assignments; (c) have participated in the mandatory sessions;

Students who fail a test have the right to re-examination. An opportunity for re-examination will be offered after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination will be arranged at a later date. 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 pass mark cannot re-take an exam or re-submit a paper to get a higher grade.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five.

The grades awarded in examinations are 5-4-3-Fail. The highest grade is 5 and the lowest passing grade is 3. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. The grade "5" denotes outstanding performance in *all* learning outcomes. The grade "4" signifies very good performance in *all* learning outcomes. To receive the grade of "3", the student must obtain minimum criteria in fulfilling *all* course learning objectives. The grade of Fail signifies that the student has not fulfilled the learning outcomes of the course, or that additional work is required before the credit can be awarded.

## Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least 25 credits in the LUMES programme.

## Further information

This course cannot be included in a degree together with MESS08, Development and Sustainability.

The syllabus was adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University, on March 21, 2013.

## Subcourses in MESS36, Economy and Sustainability

Applies from V20

2001 Economy and Sustainability, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five

Applies from H13

1301 Economy and Sustainability, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five