

MESS42, Water and Sustainability, 7.5 credits

Vatten och hållbarhet, 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 2013-10-22 and was last revised on 2024-02-02 (STYR 2024/333). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-02-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

The main field of study is *Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science*. The course constitutes a 3rd term elective (non-compulsory) course at LUMES, Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

Specialisation

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

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall demonstrate

Knowledge and understanding

- a profound knowledge and understanding of the complexity of the environmental, social and economic roles of water in society, and the underlying reasons for problems and conflicts over water
- a deepened knowledge and understanding of the properties of the hydrological cycle, including the anthropogenic interferences and climate change impacts from global to local levels;

Competence and skills

- a profound comprehension of various inter and/or trans-disciplinary theoretical and methodological approaches and tools that are commonly used for assessing problems and conflicts related to water, and

Judgement and approach

- an advanced ability to discuss and assess factors influencing the selection of water management strategies including integrated water resource management.

Course content

The overall themes of the course are water in society and water in an ecosystem. The themes are covered significantly through a variety of scientific readings and reflection that exemplify different approaches and perspectives for analysing and interpreting present and future water resource availability, the political ecology of water resource challenges, water-related vulnerability and adaptation measures, and uncertainties in climate modelling coupled to freshwater resources.

Other aspects covered in the course include the multitude of approaches of how water is perceived, e.g., water as a human right, water as an economic good, and the implications of these approaches on management and use practices. Furthermore, the course presents and discusses the on-going reformations of water resource planning, policies and laws focusing on principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM), and associated techniques in, for example, the EU and the Global South. Several concepts highlighted that address the interdisciplinary nature of freshwater including green-blue water; virtual water and water footprint assessment are further discussed. Course field excursions emphasise regional and local water use and management perspectives in practice.

Course design

The course is comprised of lectures, seminars, class excursions, group discussions, group work, student presentations, and an individual assignment.

Compulsory components

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, participation in an oral group presentation is compulsory. 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 three exams:

- Written group take-home exam, 1 credit
- Oral group in-class exam (presentation of written group take-home exam), 1,5 credits

- Written individual take-home exam, 5 credits

To receive a passing grade on the course the student must also have participated in the compulsory component, an oral group presentation.

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

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Three, Four, Five

The compulsory component is exempted from the grading scale above. The grade awarded for this component is Participated. For the grade of Participated, the student must show acceptable results.

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.

Overall course grade

The grade for the entire course consists of the average grade of the three exams that are assessed according to the Fail-5-4-3 grading scale. The written group take-home exam is worth 10% of the final grade, the oral in-class group exam is worth 20% of the final grade, and 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 grade 3 on all exams. The student must also have participated in the compulsory component to pass the course.

Exam	Credits	Grading scale	Part of final grade for the course
Written group take-home exam	1	Fail-3-4-5	10%
Oral group in-class exam (presentation of written group take-home exam)	1,5	Fail-3-4-5	20%
Written individual take-home exam	5	Fail-3-4-5	70%
Oral group presentation	-	Participated	-
	7,5		100%

Example: The student got the grade of grade 3 on the written group take-home exam, the grade of 4 on the oral group in-class exam, and the grade of 5 on the written individual take-home exam (and the grade of Participated on the compulsory component). The final grade is 5 $((3*10)+(4*20)+(5*70))/100=4,6$

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least 40 credits in the LUMES programme.

Further information

This course cannot be included in a degree together with MESS12.

The syllabus was adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University, on December 13, 2012.