

MESS49, Capacity Development, 7.5 credits

Kapacitetsutveckling, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 2014-06-24 and was valid from 2014-09-01, autumn semester 2014.

General Information

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

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

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Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

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Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concept of capacity and what constitutes capacity development for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.
- demonstrate understanding of key elements for capacity development to promote societal and community resilience.

Competence and skills

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to assess capacity development needs and the requirements for good practise in designing and evaluating capacity development projects with consideration to human conditions and needs and to societal goals for economic, social and ecological sustainable development.
- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge critically and systematically as well as the ability to design and evaluate capacity development projects even with limited information.
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in speech and writing to different audiences in both national and international contexts.
- demonstrate the ability to work constructively in a team and communicate effectively with people from various disciplines.

Judgement and approach

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to reflect upon his or her approach to and role in capacity development as well as insight into the possibilities and limitations of technology, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.
- demonstrate the ability to reflect on scientific, societal and ethical issues concerning capacity development for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

Course content

The course

- provides the students with knowledge and skills to design and review projects for the development of other stakeholders' capacity at individual, organisational and institutional level for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.
- provides a foundation for students interested in the links between research in capacity development and disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

Capacity development has been identified as the tool and process to substantially reduce disaster losses and creating sustainable development. Capacity development is defined as the process through which individuals, organisations and societies obtain, strengthen and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time.

Course design

Through lectures, literature seminars and exercises the course discusses different theoretical approaches and challenges to capacity development, different models how to analyse and assess capacity at various levels, and how to design and evaluate capacity development projects for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation i.e. project management. The course is to a large extent based on different case studies and real capacity development projects mainly from an international context, but the approaches to capacity development are also applicable in a national or local context working for governmental agencies, municipalities, consultancy firms, fire & rescue services and international humanitarian and development organisations.

Participation in oral presentation of group report is compulsory unless there are special reasons. An alternative form or date for compulsory components are offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control; e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed classes because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The course is examined by a written individual course paper and approved group project. The group project shall be reported both orally and in writing.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

Students who fail a test have the right to re-examination. 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 a passing grade cannot re-take an exam or re-submit a paper to get a higher grade. Active participation in group work is mandatory. Each group member must be able to present and answer for the contents of the joint report. Members who do not meet the demands of active participation by the others, or disregard their obligations, can be replaced or failed by the examiner.

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.

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The grades awarded for the individual course paper as well as for the course as a whole are Fail-3-4-5. The group assignment is examined Pass-Fail. The highest grade for the course as a whole is 5 and the lowest passing grade is 3. 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 3, the student must obtain a 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 grade can be awarded. At the beginning of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes of the course and about the grading scale.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least forty higher education credits in the LUMES, Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science (120 credits).

Subcourses in MESS49, Capacity Development

Applies from H14

1401 Capacity Development, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five