



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

MESS52, Sustainability and Global Health, 7.5 credits

Hållbarhet och global hälsa, 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 2015-01-13 to be valid from 2015-08-30, autumn semester 2015.

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

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

Knowledge and understanding

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate deep understanding of some of the key global human health challenges facing the planet in the 21st century,
- demonstrate deep understanding of the global and local origins of these growing and/or persisting health problems, taking into account historical, social, cultural, economic and geo-ecological aspects
- demonstrate understanding for and be able to critically examine the global origins of these emerging and/or persisting health challenges, taking into account both historical, social, cultural, economic and geo-ecological aspects

Competence and skills

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate ability to apply different health perspectives on complex socio-ecological systems
- demonstrate ability to identify and discuss the global and local origins of these growing and/or persisting health problems, taking into account historical, social, cultural, economic and geo-ecological aspects
- demonstrate ability to orally and in writing formulate, present and discuss own conclusions, as well as the underlying assumptions and arguments, concerning the imperative of human health for social, economic and environmental sustainability
- be able to exemplify, compare and contrast between the feasibility and sustainability of different tools, technologies and approaches to respond to these key health challenges today and in the future

Judgement and approach

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate ability to reflect on scientific, societal and ethical issues concerning health and sustainability
- demonstrate ability to identify needs of further knowledge and skills for improving ability to analyze complex socio-ecological systems in an interdisciplinary manner

Course content

The course provides global and local perspectives on and examples of some of the most urgent health problems we face today and their impact on people's health, well-being and livelihoods.

The course deals with the connections between three important areas of study in sustainability studies: development, environment and global health. Four areas are treated in more depth: health impact of climate change, issues of sanitation, dietary questions and questions concerning the links between consumption, waste and health in a global perspective.

By highlighting four key emerging and persistent global health challenges, the course provides a deeper understanding of the importance of good health for social, economic and environmental sustainability:

1. health impacts of present and future climate change e.g. malnutrition, issues of sanitation, heat-stress, extreme cold, flooding, and rising incidence of vector borne-diseases;
2. the prevailing global sanitation crisis and its social, economic and environmental consequences;
3. the global dietary paradox (obesity in some groups vs. malnutrition and food insecurity in some groups);
4. the health externalities of global manufacturing, consumption, and waste from a global perspective (with a focus on the handling of the electronics we use, produce and waste)

Course design

The course is comprised of lectures, seminars, documentary film viewings, class excursions, group discussions, student presentations and individual written assignments/papers aimed at covering all four key thematic health challenges. Each of the four key thematic health challenges will be covered. The final part of the course is dedicated to group work and a final day of oral presentations.

An alternative form or date for compulsory components is 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 individual assignments and a final group project. The final group project includes the production of an academic poster. The group project is also presented orally at the final mini-health conference.

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. 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.

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 highest grade for the course as a whole is 5 and the lowest grade is 3. The student's performance is assessed with reference to 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 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).

Further information

The course was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on February 5, 2015. This course cannot be included in a degree together with MESS22, Environment and Health, 7,5 credits.

Subcourses in MESS52, Sustainability and Global Health

Applies from H15

1501 Sustainability and Global Health, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five