



Faculty of Social Sciences

## MEST02, Methodological Approaches to Climate Change, 7.5 credits

*Metodologiska ansatser till klimatförändringar, 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 2024-05-31 (STYR2024/1440). The syllabus comes into effect 2024-10-14 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

### General information

The course is a first term compulsory course within Lund University Master's Programme in Climate Change and Society (LUCAS), 120 credits.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of study*

Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

*Specialisation*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, the student shall

#### Knowledge and understanding

- Understand and account for critical differences between foundational approaches, perspectives and theories in relation to climate research
- Identify, evaluate and apply different quantitative and qualitative research methods
- Demonstrate knowledge of and insights into the research process as a whole.

## Competence and skills

- Take a position on and use relevant theoretical approaches in the study of sustainability science research topics and climate change
- Identify, select and critically discuss different research methods
- Demonstrate the ability to independently acquire, evaluate and compile information that is relevant to sustainability science and climate research.

## Judgement and approach

- Evaluate measures to tackle climate change based on different research methods
- Compare and evaluate different methodological options and how they influence the design and outcomes of the research process
- Practice reflexivity regarding ethical and political aspects in relation to the researcher's role and responsibilities.

## Course content

The aim of the course is to provide students with the fundamental methodological expertise needed to understand, analyse and contribute knowledge to the challenges of climate change and how to meet these in the long term. The course takes an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to research on the climate crisis and its possible solutions. Students will practise research design, including how to link research questions with appropriate theories and methods to develop, interpret and critically review research findings. Discussions on theories and methods in relation to current sustainability topics and climate research permeate the entire course to give students improved knowledge and understanding of context and application. The course also contains discussions on ethical aspects with particular relevance for climate research. A practical approach, including exercises and group discussions, is applied throughout the course.

## Course design

The course consists of lectures, seminars and both group and individual exercises. Group assignments and exercises are combined with individual work to develop the students' ability to understand, analyse and apply various theoretical and methodological approaches.

## Assessment

Course assessment is based on two examinations:

- Written group take-home exam (2,5 credits)
- Written individual take-home exam (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.

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

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 two exams that are assessed according to the Fail-5-4-3 grading scale. The written group take-home exam is worth 30% of the final grade. 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 3 on both exams.

Exam	Credits	Grades	Part of final grade for the course
Written group take-home exam	2,5	Fail-3-4-5	30%
Written individual take-home exam	5	Fail-3-4-5	70%
		7,5	100%

Example: The student got the grade of 3 on the written group take-home exam and the grade of 5 on the written individual take-home exam. The final grade is 4  $((3*30)+(5*70))/100=4,4 < 4.5$  is rounded down and  $4.5 >$  is rounded up.

## Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, the student must hold a Bachelor's degree, including at least 180 ECTS.

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.