

MEST03, Climate Change Politics and Economics, 7.5 credits

Klimatförändringarnas politiska och ekonomiska dimensioner, 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 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

- Demonstrate the ability to distinguish between different political and economic paradigms and their relevance to climate change and measures aimed at addressing it
- Demonstrate in-depth interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of the economic and political drivers of climate change and efforts to address it
- Critically reflect on the political and economic dimensions of climate change at international, national and local levels, as well as on the role of different actors and institutional architectures
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of alternative political and economic approaches that have emerged in response to the threat of climate change.

Competence and skills

- Individually and in groups, demonstrate the ability to navigate and contextualise different social perspectives and synthesise interdisciplinary knowledge
- Apply key political and economic concepts to the study of climate change in a systematic and qualified manner.

Judgement and approach

- Identify and critically assess implicit assumptions, normative approaches and values in initiatives aimed at addressing climate change, and the tensions, conflicts and disagreements between them
- Demonstrate the ability to explain how different approaches and solutions to climate change create trade-offs and contradictions in terms of justice and ethics.

Course content

The course introduces the political and economic drivers of climate change and the measures aimed at addressing these, as well as the complex links between them. The course makes extensive use of practical examples, but also introduces political and economic theories and paradigms, and analyses how these shape both the understanding of climate change as well as the solutions proposed to address it. Also central to the course are the actors and institutional architectures considered responsible for implementing climate solutions and the institutional systems through which they should be implemented.

The student will develop skills in critically assessing the implications of different paradigms for implementing change, including through the identification of competing interests, justice dimensions, and weighing of trade-offs.

During the course, the student will:

- Be introduced to political and economic paradigms and theories to develop an understanding of how these shape our understanding of the problem of climate change and the solutions proposed to meet them
- Explore the political and economic drivers of climate change and identify political and economic causes of both climate action and inaction
- Analyse the “who” and “how” of climate change by examining the role of different actors in implementing solutions to the climate crisis
- Understand the trade-offs and consequences of action and inaction by identifying conflicting and competing interests, trade-offs and aspects of justice.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and exercises. Individual and group exercises and assignments are combined to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and competences to identify, understand and analyse the political and economic dimensions of climate change in a way that is theoretically informed and empirically grounded. Students will have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge introduced in the course to concrete empirical cases.

Assessment

Course assessment is based on three examinations:

- Written group take-home exam (2,5 credits)
- Written individual take-home exam (5 credits)
- Oral presentation of written group take-home exam (0 credit)

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

The oral presentation of the written group take-home exam is excluded from the grading scale above. The grade for this component is Fail - Pass.

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 all graded exams and a Pass on the oral presentation of the written group take-home exam.

Exam	Credits	Grades	Part of the 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%
Oral presentation of written group take-home exam	0	Fail-Pass	0%
	7,5		100%

Example: The student got the grade of 3 on the written group take-home exam, the grade of 5 on the written individual take-home exam, and the grade of Pass on the oral presentation of the written group take-home exam. The final grade is 4 $((3*30)+(5*70)+(G*0))/100=4,4 < 4.5$ 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.