Faculty of Social Sciences

# MEST07, Methods for Climate Action, 7.5 credits

*Metoder för klimataktion , 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) and was last revised on 2025-04-04 (STYR 2025/972). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-10-14 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

## General information

The course is a second 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* | *Specialisation* |
|---|---|
| Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science | A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements |

## Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, the student shall

### Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate an understanding of the processes and outcomes of different qualitative and quantitative approaches to climate action, including but not limited to systemic, organisational or civil society applications
- Critically account for and discuss individual and collective research approaches, methods and tools in different contexts and at different scales, and the role of these approaches, methods and tools in contributing to fair and equitable solutions to societal challenges that arise because of climate change.

### Competence and skills

- Apply approaches to climate action that are relevant to context and stakeholders in individual or group-based activities and projects
- Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative methods and tools for their effectiveness in promoting fair and equitable societal responses to climate change.

### Judgement and approach

- Propose and argue for appropriate methods in applied research and practical work related to sustainability, climate change and society that are relevant to specific contexts and stakeholders
- Demonstrate an understanding of the opportunities and challenges of using different methods and tools as part of a larger complex process to find fair and equitable solutions to the societal challenges posed by climate change
- Demonstrate the ability to reflect on the researcher's positionality in relation to different methods and tools for climate change adaptation.

## Course content

The course explores a range of methods and tools for understanding and taking action on societal challenges posed by climate change and aims to analyse the implications, challenges and opportunities in applying them in practice. Building on previous knowledge from the programme, the student will develop competence in both individual and collective research approaches, methods and tools that provide knowledge, skills, capacities and action plans to address social inequalities and issues of justice related to climate change and society.

The course is structured in three parts that build on each other:

1. Establishing the foundations: Approaches and principles underpinning climate action methodologies, placing them within collective and participatory approaches, values and theories of change, reflecting on the opportunities and challenges of such approaches when working with different data sources
2. Learning the tools: Develop, practice and critique approaches to climate action, exploring quantitative and qualitative methods and tools to understand and act in relation to systemic processes and stakeholders, organisational transformation, people's lived experiences and grassroots change
3. Developing projects: Students develop a project proposal related to a socially-focused climate action of their choice, applying the relevant methods and analytical tools explored in the course.

## Course design

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars, exercises, workshops and student-led teaching.

## Assessment

Course assessment is based on three examinations:

- Written individual in class exam (2,5 credits)
- Written individual or in pair take-home exam (5 credits)
- Oral presentation of written individual or in pair take-home exam (0 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
The oral presentation of written individual or in pair 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 or in pair 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 individual in class exam | 2,5 | Fail-3-4-5 | 30% |
| Written individual or in pair take-home exam | 5 | Fail-3-4-5 | 70% |
| Oral presentation of written individual or in pair take-home exam | - | Fail-Pass | - |
| | 7,5 | | 100% |

Example: The student got the grade of 3 on the written individual in class exam, the grade of 5 on the written individual or in pair take-home exam, and the grade of Pass on the oral presentation of the written individual or in pair 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 have fulfilled course requirements of at least 37,5 higher education credits in the Master's Programme in Climate Change and Society (LUCAS).

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.