



Faculty of Social Sciences

MEST09, Master's Thesis in Climate Change and Society, 30 credits

Examensarbete för masterexamen i klimatförändringar och samhälle, 30 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 spring semester 2027.

General information

The Master's Thesis course constitutes the fourth and final term of Lund University International Master's Programme in Climate Change and Society (LUCAS). The course is a compulsory course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

Specialisation

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of the links between climate science, social theories and climate policy
- Use appropriate terms and concepts to communicate broad yet in-depth knowledge of relevant theories and methods
- Identify, analyse and apply the latest research findings in climate science and measures to tackle climate change.

Competence and skills

- Independently, creatively and critically identify and formulate research problems and plan and carry out qualified research tasks that contribute to the development of new and integrated knowledge
- Demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate and apply interdisciplinary knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations
- Demonstrate the ability to find, summarise, critically review, cite and refer to current literature and other relevant material.

Judgement and approach

- Demonstrate the ability to critically analyse climate research and practice, their implications in relation to other relevant scientific disciplines and social aspects, and identify gaps in current knowledge
- Exercise critical reflexivity and assess scientific positionality and ethical aspects in relation to the potential and limitations of science, their own research and its contribution to society
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate new knowledge and identify the need for further knowledge.

Course content

The Master's thesis is an independent project that aims to address the complex challenges of climate change from an interdisciplinary social sciences perspective. Within the course, students carry out an independent thesis project on a defined research problem concerning the social aspects of the impact of climate change and its potential solutions. The thesis is to have a scientific basis and adopt appropriate methodological approaches. The Master's thesis is carried out individually or in pairs and is planned and executed in consultation with a supervisor. The completed Master's thesis is assessed by an examiner at a final seminar in which the students act as each other's reviewers.

Course design

Teaching consists of group and individual supervision. Supervision is limited to the semester in which the student was first registered on the course. Exceptions can be in special circumstances. To complete the course, students must submit a Master's thesis and defend it at a seminar organised at the end of the course. The student is also to participate as the reviewer of a thesis written by a fellow student. Written instructions for the review process will be given to the student well in advance of the seminar.

Participation in the final seminar and review discussion is compulsory unless there are valid reasons to the contrary. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or retake compulsory components. This also applied to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed by specially appointed examiners. Assessment is based on the completed thesis.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. 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 Master's thesis is to be registered in an Open Access database belonging to Lund University. Each student decides the level of publication. In special circumstances, exceptions to open access publication may be authorised. The Master's thesis is archived according to Lund University's Records Management Plan.

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.

Assessment of the final Master's thesis includes a written essay, a presentation and defence of the student's own work, and review of another student's thesis. All components are assessed jointly to give a final, overall grade.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least 60 higher education credits in the Master's Programme in Climate Change and Society (LUCAS), 120 credits.

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.