Department of Earth and Enironmental Sciences

MNXB10, Climate, Culture and Biodiversity - Interwoven Challenges in a Changing World, 3 credits

Klimat, kultur och biologisk mångfald - sammanflätade utmaningar i en föränderlig värld, 3 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Education Board of Faculty of Science on 2025-06-09. The syllabus comes into effect 2025-06-09 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

The course is an independent course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
-	G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The overall goal of the course is that after completing the course, the student will have knowledge about the causes of biodiversity loss and the multiple values of nature, as well as a basic understanding of the connections between climate change and biodiversity loss. The student will also be able to analyze and apply cultural and artistic expressions as strategic tools to communicate, problematize and contribute to solutions to the threat to biodiversity, and relate these strategic tools to other methods aimed at solving the biodiversity crisis.

Knowledge and understanding

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- explain at a comprehensive level what biodiversity and its multiple values are
- identify human processes that directly or indirectly threaten biodiversity

- explain at a general level the causal relationship between climate change and biodiversity
- describe strategies and measures that different actors have developed to address the biodiversity crisis
- explain and exemplify how cultural and artistic processes can be used as strategic tools to communicate complex environmental issues, challenge prevailing norms and values, and transform humanity's relation to global environmental problems, with a particular focus on the threat to biodiversity

Competence and skills

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- plan and implement a project with a clear target group and purpose, which uses cultural and artistic tools to communicate, problematize and influence our approach to biodiversity
- present the project in a structured and engaging way, argue for its relevance and potential, and relate it to the theories and concepts of the course
- actively receive and give constructive feedback on the projects of others, with a focus on content and form, and reflect on how the feedback can be used to improve one's own work

Judgement and approach

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- critically reflect on the ethical, social and economic dimensions of human impact on biodiversity and climate
- identify and analyze ethical dilemmas that may arise in relation to the use of artistic processes in relation to society's opportunities for change

Course content

The course explores the fundamentals of the crisis of biodiversity and its relation to climate change emphasizing the potential of cultural and artistic narratives to communicate, challenge, and transform our responses to the global biodiversity crisis. By integrating perspectives from different individuals, and societal actors, the course investigates current societal and cultural dependencies on biodiversity as a resource for materials, food and human culture as well as the responses to biodiversity loss and climate challenges across the globe. Central to this exploration is the role of culture and art, including literature and cinema, as powerful tools to deepen our understanding of humanity's connection to and perception of the natural world.

The course consists of three modules. The first module reviews central concepts and principles related to biodiversity and the relation between biodiversity and climate change. In module Two, the principles are applied in practice through games, excursions and seminars. In the third module, students plan and carry out a project in small groups that uses cultural and artistic stories to communicate, problematize and influence human attitudes towards biodiversity.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, games, excursions, seminars, and a project work. Participation in excursions, exercises, seminars, and project work is mandatory.

Assessment

Examination is carried out through a written exam, through active participation in games, excursions and seminars during the course, and in the end of the course through implementation and presentation of a project.

Students who have not passed the regular examination are offered an additional examination opportunity in close connection to the regular exam.

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, Pass
For a passing final grade for the entire course, a passed written exam, active participation in all mandatory components and a passed project is required.

Entry requirements

General requirements and studies equivalent to Swedish Upper Secondary School courses English 6/English level 2

Further information

The course is given at the Department of Environmental and Earthsciences, Lund University.