



Faculty of Science

MVEB15, Environmental Science: Governing the Environment, 15 credits

Miljövetenskap: Miljöpolitik och förvaltning, 15 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Study programmes board, Faculty of Science on 2016-01-25 to be valid from 2016-01-25, spring semester 2016.

General Information

The course is an elective first cycle component of a degree of Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

Language of instruction: Swedish
Some components may be taught in English

Main field of studies

Environmental Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is that, upon its completion, the students shall have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to demonstrate

- basic knowledge of environmental policy and public administration, including its actors, structures and processes
- understanding of the environmental impact of different policy choices

Competence and skills

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

- use relevant tools to analyse and reflect on the basic problems and control of environmental policy, and the organisation and implementation of environmental policy of public administration
- compile and communicate results of a learning process in both speech and writing within predetermined frames of time and space
- perform basic information searches and conduct simple reference management

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to demonstrate the ability to

- critically reflect on and assess different perspectives on the control and organisation of environmental policy
- assume responsibility for and plan their own work and learning process
- cooperate with others in order to implement shared aims

Course content

The course provides students with an overview of the Swedish political system and its actors at different levels, focusing on the management of environmental issues. Furthermore, it deals with the institutions and decision-making processes of the EU and with international cooperation in the area of the environment.

Among the topics studied are the democratic decision-making processes at the local, regional, national and international levels. The roles of the Riksdag and the Government, the parties, the organisations and the media in the environmental debate and the decision-making process are analysed. The assumptions of environmental ethics underlying different positions in environmental politics are discussed.

Political control, implementation and evaluation in the environmental area are studied. The organisation of the state and municipal administration and their remits, working methods and authorities are addressed. The role of the expert and the rights and obligations of the civil servant in the the democratic system are analysed. Discussions address citizens' participation and insight in the activities of environmental and health protection administration, including the principle of public access to official documents and issues of legal certainty. Topics highlighted include management by objectives and decentralisation and privatisation of public activities affecting the control and organisation of the environmental policy.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, group exercises and study visits. Participation in seminars is compulsory. The teaching is based on active participation from the student through preparation and summary and analysis assignments. During the course, students will work with empirical material from the area of environmental and health protection and practise oral and written presentation.

Assessment

Assessment is continuous and based on five assignments that include a written exam, oral presentations and written papers of which the final will be critically reviewed at a seminar. Students who failed the regular exam will be offered a re-sit opportunity shortly thereafter.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

For a Pass on the whole course, students must have passed all the assessed components. The first four assignments are awarded a grade of Pass or Fail. The final grade is determined by an aggregate of the results of these assignments and the final paper.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must meet the general admission requirements and have 30 credits from science courses including MVEA01 Environmental Science: Basic Course, 15 credits, or the equivalent.

Further information

The course may not be included in a degree together with the course MVEC15 Governing the Environment, 15 credits.

Subcourses in MVEB15, Environmental Science: Governing the Environment

Applies from V16

- 1601 Orientation in Public Policy Documentation, 0,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Participated
- 1602 The Swedish Political System, 4,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1603 Discussion Paper, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1604 Policy Analys, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1605 Final Course Paper, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction