

**MVEN16, Environmental Science: Climate policy,
Governance, and Communication, 15 credits**

*Miljövetenskap: Klimatpolitik, samhällsstyrning och
kommunikation, 15 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Study programmes board, Faculty of Science on 2011-02-03 to be valid from 2011-02-03, autumn semester 2011.

General Information

The course is a compulsory second cycle component of a degree of Master (120 credits) in the main field environmental science specialising in applied climate strategy.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish

The language of instruction is Swedish, but some components may be taught in English.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding:

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

- account for and reflect on different social sciences perspectives (e.g. political science, environmental law, environmental economics, communication studies) on climate and environmental policy control and administration at different administrative levels
- reflect on the complex structures and relations between actors that characterise decision-making processes, control and implementation in environmental and climate policy
- account for political and administrative decision and policy processes in the administration of environmental policy of relevance to climate policy

- account for and categorise environmental and climate policy strategies, policy instruments and measures

Competence and skills:

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

- apply social sciences perspectives to the analysis of current issues of climate policy and of the development of climate strategy work in the administration of environmental policy
- critically review and analyse different perspectives and views in the debate on climate policy in the media and contexts
- apply, assess and review climate policy strategies, policy instruments and measures in different sectors such as energy, transport, construction and planning.
- assimilate, assess and critically review summarised and synthesised information from different sources and present the results in speech and writing to researchers, decision-makers and the public

Judgement and approach:

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

- assess the importance of climate policy, societal control and communication for the development of sustainable social development with regard to the climate and other aspects
- identify their need of knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning

Course content

The course provides students with an overview and basic understanding of social sciences perspectives on climate policy control and administration. Lectures and independent study deal with political science perspectives on climate policy and policy processes, and social control based on environmental policy. This includes the multi-level problem complex typical of environmental and climate policy and covering the international, European, national and local levels as well as different sectors (public, private, civilian).

Further topics addressed include the aspects of environmental law and exercise of public authority of relevance to the climate change issue, the legal instruments of climate policy, the regulation of activities and legal aspects of community planning and infrastructure. Technology policy and agreements and financial agreements in the form of flexible mechanisms are also included.

Moreover, the course consists of a critical review of the relationship between the media and climate change, the different ways of describing climate change in the media in different parts of the world, and the impact of the media industry on climate policy locally and globally. This includes public opinion-making and the power to set the agenda, media representations and public understanding, and media logic and assessment of newsworthiness. In this context, the students execute a media analysis.

The course is concluded with a project, in which the students address a topic of relevance to climate policy (e.g. an investigation, a process or current reform) and reflect on the topic from the perspectives of political science, law, communication and economics covered by the course.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, exercises and project work. Participation in seminars, exercises, project work and associated other teaching is compulsory.

Assessment

The assessment is based on written assignments, oral reports of exercises and project presentations throughout the course.

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 the written assignments, oral reports of exercises and project presentations, and participated in all compulsory components. The final grade is determined by an aggregate of the assessed components.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have a first-cycle degree of at least 180 credits or an equivalent international degree, and knowledge equivalent to MVEN15: Climate Change, Science and Society, 15 credits.

Students must also have Swedish B and English B or the equivalent.

Further information

Subcourses in MVEN16, Environmental Science: Climate policy, Governance, and Communication

Applies from H10

1101 Climate Policy, Governance, and Communication, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction