



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

PSYE50, Psychology: Psychology and Climate Change, 15 credits

Psykologi: Psykologi och klimatförändring, 15 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Psychology on 2022-06-07 and was last revised on 2022-06-07. The revised syllabus applies from 2023-01-16, spring semester 2023.

General Information

The course is given as a freestanding course at the first cycle level and may be included in a Bachelor Degree in Psychology.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Psychology

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, the students shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the complex interlinkages between psychology and climate change.
- Demonstrate knowledge of theories and models that elucidate the psychological factors and capacities that can facilitate or inhibit sustainable climate action at individual, collective and system levels.

Competence and skills

- Demonstrate the ability to critically investigate how intra- and interpersonal psychological processes contribute to fostering, perceiving, communicating, mitigating, and adapting to climate change.

- Demonstrate the ability to review scientific evidence to explain how individuals and groups respond to climate change in adaptive or maladaptive ways.
- Discuss, explore, and apply psychological skills and methods to support sustainable climate action and reduce climate distress.

Judgement and approach

Demonstrate the ability to reflect on how psychological and behavioral theories, methods and approaches support sustainability and climate change science and practice, and vice versa.

Course content

The course takes an interdisciplinary perspective and approach and is jointly conducted by Lund University Department of Psychology and the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS). It is taught in English and aimed at those who wish to learn about the complex linkages between psychology and climate change and apply them in their respective field of work or study. We will explore the many ways our changing climate affect individuals and groups around the world, including climate distress and its consequences, the psychological and behavioral factors that drive the climate crises, and the theories and practices that can support skillful action at individual, collective and system levels.

The course will draw upon theories and research from several fields, such as evolutionary, cognitive, social, industrial/organizational, and clinical psychology as well as behavioral economics and sustainability science. The course is divided into three overlapping parts:

Part 1 covers the climate paradox, including aspects such as skepticism and denial and the psychological factors that drive climate change and create barriers to climate action.

Part 2 moves from barriers to solutions by exploring how psychological capacities and functions can inform behavioral change and climate action.

Part 3 examines further the role of psychology for supporting and maintaining sustainable climate action across individual, collective and system levels (related theories, methods, practices).

After completing the course, the student will have gained basic knowledge of the complex interlinkages between psychology and climate change, related theories, methods and practices.

Course design

The course is comprised of different learning activities, including lectures, seminars, and exercises.

Assessment

The course is examined in writing. For each graded task, the course offers three test opportunities: regular test, re-test and make-up test. Within one year after a major change or completion of the course, at least two additional examination sessions will be offered on the same course content. Thereafter, students will be offered further examination opportunities, but in accordance with the current syllabus.

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.

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

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass.

The grading scale includes the grades Fail, Pass. Students will receive a Pass/Fail grade. For a Pass grade the student must show a sufficient result. For the grade Fail, the student has shown an insufficient result.

Entry requirements

General requirements and studies equivalent of courses Social Studies 1b or 1a1+1a2 from Swedish Upper Secondary School.

Subcourses in PSYE50, Psychology: Psychology and Climate Change

Applies from V23

2301 Psychology and Climate Change, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass