



## SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

### **HE2233 Adaptation to Global Environmental Change, 15 credits**

Adaptation to Global Environmental Change, 15 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2009-10-15 and was last revised on 2019-08-09 by School of Global Studies to be valid from 2020-01-20, spring semester of 2020.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* School of Global Studies

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is an elective course in the second cycle.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Master's Programme in European Studies (S2EUS) and 2) Master's Programme in Global Studies (S2GLS)

*Main field of studies*

Global Studies

*Specialization*

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

A completed core course of 15 higher education credits in the second cycle within the field of global studies. Alternatively a completed undergraduate degree in one of the following subjects: human ecology, global studies, social anthropology, political science, sociology, economics, international relations, development studies, environmental social science, or the equivalent competence.

Language requirements: English 6/English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School or the equivalent level of an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS, or alternatively a bachelor's degree from an education held in English.

## Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

### *Knowledge and understanding*

- critically reflect on different theoretical approaches related to the concept of adaptation to global environmental change;
- account for how and why conflicts and synergies arise between adaptation, economic development, migration, security, poverty, gender and human rights agendas;
- account for and apply key concepts of relevance to climate change adaptation such as risk, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity;

### *Competence and skills*

- apply relevant theoretical approaches and concepts in the critical analysis and elaboration of local adaptation policies and practices;
- show proficiency in presenting results from assignments verbally and in writing;

### *Judgement and approach*

- systematically conceptualize and demonstrate the interplay between global, national, and local processes in relation to adaptation to global environmental change;
- assess adaptation plans in terms of their impact on and relevance to vulnerable groups.

The course is sustainability-focused, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria. The content also constitutes the course's main focus.

## Course content

Increasing evidence show that effects of anthropogenic environmental change, especially those linked to global warming, will be more severe and experienced sooner than what was earlier expected. Both industrialized and developing countries are therefore increasingly focusing on the need for adaptation strategies in relation to experienced and/or anticipated environmental change.

This course aims at presenting different perspectives on and approaches to the challenge of adaptation to global environmental change. It covers themes such as:

- Theoretical concepts and approaches to human adaptation in general and adaptation to present and future global environmental changes in particular.
- The vulnerability of communities in different parts of the world to the combined impacts of environmental and non-environmental stress.
- International, regional and national adaptation policies.
- The construction of socioeconomic and environmental scenarios as a tool for adaptation policies.
- Conflicts and synergies between adaptation, economic development, security, poverty, gender and human rights agendas.
- Interlinkages between environmental change mitigation and adaptation.

### **Form of teaching**

The main forms of teaching are seminars and lectures.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

The course is examined using seminar assignments and a take home exam

The number of examination occasions can for resource reasons be limited to a minimum of 5 occasions for each examination component.

If a student, who has failed the same examined element on two occasions, wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, such a request is to be submitted to the department in writing and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, though at most two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to work experience and VFU, although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

In order to obtain the grade Pass for the whole course, the student has to receive Pass on the home exam, and all group and individual assignments. In order to obtain the grade Pass with Distinction for the whole course, the student has in addition to receive Pass with Distinction on the individual home exam.

**Course evaluation**

The course coordinator is responsible for systematically and regularly collecting the students' views of the course, and for making sure that the results of the evaluations in different forms are taken into consideration when developing the course. The results and possible changes to the course will be shared with the students who participated in the evaluation and the next class to take the course.