



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

HE2234 Sustainable Development: Conflicts, Communication and Collaboration, 15 credits

Sustainable Development: Conflicts, Communication and Collaboration, 15
högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2009-10-15 and was last revised on 2021-11-23 by School of Global Studies to be valid from 2022-01-17, spring semester of 2022.

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), 2) Master's Programme in International Administration and Global Governance (S2IAG) and 3) 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, European studies, human-, cultural-, development- or economic geography 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

- Identify and review different theoretical approaches related to ecological problems, societal conflict dynamics, and the interrelationships between these two;
- identify causes and driving forces behind environmental conflicts at different levels and scales;

Competence and skills

- independently write a coherent and well-structured argumentative essay on a topic related to environmental conflict;
- show proficiency in presenting results from individual and group assignments verbally and in writing;
- systematically, critically and constructively comment on others' scientific written work;

Judgement and approach

- assess and critically reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical approaches;
- systematically conceptualize and demonstrate the interplay between global and local processes in relation to environmental conflicts;
- independently and critically analyse environmental conflicts and existing approaches and policies to intervene in such conflicts from an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspective.

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

The course explores how conflicts of interest are related to natural resources and linked to the ecological, social and economic dimensions of sustainability. We explore the notion of environmental conflict (and climate conflict) and ask whether there is such a

thing and what it means to interpret a conflict along these lines.

The course starts out with a set of foundational reflections on taking a political ecology perspective, on the implications of environmental degradation and climate change, and on understanding the causes and dynamics of conflict. The central part of the course then reviews several thematic fields and case studies linked to the overall focus of the course, including conservation, security, indigenous perspectives, and the ecological dimensions of conflict. The final part of focuses on new paradigms and constructive policy perspectives.

Form of teaching

The thematic core content is covered in lectures and in the literature. The student-led seminars address and problematize these themes further.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

To complete this course, students are required to actively participate in all mandatory seminars (3hp). If a student is unable to participate in a seminar, they will have to hand in a replacement assignment.

The written assessment of the course comprises two submissions: an argumentative essay (6hp) and an applied report (6hp).

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

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, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (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).

Written assignments will be marked with a 12-point scale, where a 7 is a Pass (G) and a 10 is Pass with Distinction (VG). Seminars will be marked with Pass(G) or Fail (U).

In order to obtain the grade Pass for the whole course, students have to complete all requirements, including a Pass or higher on two written submissions (Argumentative essay and Applied report).

In order to obtain the grade Pass with Distinction for the whole course, students have to complete all requirements and receive an average of 10 points (rounded up) on the two written submissions (Argumentative essay and Applied report).

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.