



## DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### **ES2423 Sustainable development: A case study approach, 15 credits**

Fallstudiekurs i hållbar utveckling, 15 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences on 2015-10-13 and was last revised on 2019-02-13 to be valid from 2019-03-17, spring semester of 2019.

*Field of education:* Science 100%

*Department:* Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

*Other participating department*

Department of Economy and Society

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

The course is at second cycle level and is included in the Master's (120 credits) programme in environmental sciences and the Master's (120 credits) programme in geography, but can also be included in other Master's (120 credits) programmes and be given also as a freestanding course.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Atmosphere, Climate and Ecosystems, Master's Programme (N2ACE), 2) Master's Programme in Geography (N2GEO) and 3) Environmental Sciences (N2MVN)

*Main field of studies*

Environmental Science

*Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

Higher education of at least 180 credits and of these at least 60 credits in environmental sciences, natural sciences, geography, human or physical geography, or other courses relevant for the subject, as well as completed a degree project at undergraduate level of

at least 15 credits. Furthermore, language skills equivalent to English 6/English B.6. is required.

### **Learning outcomes**

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

- Identify, formulate and evaluate plans for sustainable development in a local context
- Plan, carry out and present a project in collaboration with students from own or other scientific disciplines and within an established time frame

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- in an advanced way explain the concept of sustainable development in both theory and practice
- explain the role of different scientific disciplines in the work with sustainable development

#### *Competence and skills*

- organise the work distribution in a multi-disciplinary project
- interact with public authorities, stakeholders, the public and other interested parties concerning sustainable development
- choose and carry out relevant methods and to understand and analyse real problems on sustainable development
- communicate the aim, methods, results and recommendations of the project to different target groups, including the media

#### *Judgement and approach*

- evaluate different roles and requests from stakeholders concerning sustainable development as well as understand the borders and interaction between scientific results and the interests and aims of society
- relate the results from own disciplinary analyses to the analyses and results of other scientific disciplines

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**

Together with other students from own and other scientific disciplines, a case study is carried out with a focus on how society plan for sustainable development in a local context.

During the course period, the groups survey, analyse, model and evaluate problems, challenges and possibilities for sustainable development. A central part of this work is to interact with public authorities experts, local people, etc. The results will be presented in the form of a written report and an oral presentation.

The course gives training in planning and carrying out a project, identifying and using different methods to analyse sustainable development in theory and in practice, the art of interacting with actors of society and presenting important results from the case study.

**Form of teaching**

The course contains various initial lectures and literature discussions, but is mainly carried out in the form of a multidisciplinary project, where the students themselves to a large extent decide what should be made. The course coordinator decides on the actual study field while students themselves decide on the daily work in the groups. This work takes place under supervision by one or more teachers.

The projects require fieldwork to be carried out in the case study area which can be located in the region of Göteborg or in the west part of Sweden. A part of the time can be located to some of the university field stations depending on the geographic location of the chosen case study area.

During the project work, the students present what has been done by writing individual diaries which should include reflections on their own process and learning.

The result of the project work is presented partly through a written report, partly through oral presentations at the end of the course.

The teaching is given in either Swedish or English, depending on the student composition of the course. It may occur that certain case study materials are only

available in Swedish. In these cases, it is the duty of Swedish-speaking students and teachers to assist students not speaking Swedish to understand the material.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and English

### **Assessment**

Grading on the course is based on:

- a) individual diaries
- b) the individual student's contribution to the final report
- c) the content and implementation of the oral and written presentation
- d) individual oral examination

Detailed guidelines and assessment criteria for the case study work are made available for the student in a course guide.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). Criteria for assessing and grading the written assignment and the oral presentation are informed during the course.

### **Course evaluation**

An opportunity to write a course evaluation will be given at the end of the course. Changes made to improve the course in response to prior criticism and views will be made available for next year's students.

The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.

**Additional information**

This course replaces ES2415 and can not be included in the same qualification as ES2423.