



## DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

### **GE0400 Geography: Introductory Level, 30 credits**

Geografi: Baskurs, 30 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

---

#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Earth Sciences on 2012-01-16 and was last revised on 2024-03-11 to be valid from 2024-09-02, autumn semester of 2024.

*Field of education:* Science 100%

*Department:* Department of Earth Sciences

*Other participating department*

Department of Economy and Society

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

The course includes 30 credits at bachelor's level and is an introductory course in the Bachelor's Programme in Geography. The course is also offered as an elective course subject to availability.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Bachelor's Programme in Geography (N1GEO)

*Main field of studies*

Geography

*Specialization*

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

#### **Entry requirements**

General entrance requirements.

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

*Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts
- demonstrate knowledge of various geographical tools
- basic understanding of processes in nature
- basic understanding of population geography and urbanisation including a landscape perspective

#### *Competence and skills*

- basic competence and skills to collect, process and analyse geographical information

#### *Judgement and approach*

- understanding the importance of geographical conditions and contexts from a sustainability perspective

The course is sustainability-related, 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.

### **Course content**

The course consists of four modules:

#### *Sub-courses*

#### **1. Introduction** (*Introduktion*), 7.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

This module provide an introduction to the basic concepts and nature of the geography and its position and role in both education and research. The module addresses the origins of the subject, geographical problems and provides geographical aspects of current problems, from local to global.

The map and digital cartography are central tools in geography, the module covers introductory aspects of cartography and GIS. The module also covers, at a general level, geographical research methods in the context of field studies and geographical excursions in the local environment.

#### **2. Geographical information system, GIS** (*Geografiska Informationssystem, GIS*), 7.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

The module is an introduction to Geographic Information Systems and involves data collection, data processing, digital cartography and remote sensing.

Practical exercises with GIS software are a major part of the course.

#### **3. Earth Surface Processes - Impact & Causes of Change** (*Processer i naturen -*

*påverkan och orsak till förändring över tid*), 7.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

The module covers, at a basic level, the processes that build the Earth's crust through the formation of mineral and rocks. The properties of the main minerals and rocks and their characteristics are covered. The module also covers basic geomorphology i.e. is treated the endogenous and exogenous processes that affect the land and shape landforms and landscapes.

Meteorological processes and climatology are also included in the module, where ground radiation balance, atmospheric circulation, air masses and weather science are key concepts. Basic definitions and causes for climate variability are covered at a general level. The module illustrates the theoretical content in various types of exercises/laboratory sessions and field work.

#### **4. Population trends and urbanization** (*Befolkningsutveckling och urbanisering*), 7.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

The module provides an introduction to population geography and urbanisation with a focus on population development and current population issues, as well as on urbanisation processes and the functions and current challenges of the city connected to the urbanisation.

It is radical for the whole course that it highlights aspects at different scales from local and regional examples to national and global trends. The course relates to issues of sustainable development and the UN Agenda 2030.

Lectures, written exercise and seminars are included.

#### **Form of teaching**

The teaching consists of lectures, laboratory sessions, fieldwork, group work, seminars and exercises.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish

Some teaching may be given in English.

#### **Assessment**

Exams are organised at the end of each sub-course and/or during the course. Usually written examination (distance) but other forms of exams are possible. Participation in seminars, laboratory sessions, field courses and excursions may be compulsory if informed.

Module 1 is examined through written assignments, reports and seminars.

Module 2 and 3 are examined through written exams and participation in compulsory

components.

Module 4 is examined through a written exam and a written assignment.

Introduction - Cultural geographic exercise (Introduction - Human Geography Exercise), 2 credits: Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction

Introduction - physical geography exercise (Introduction - Physical Geography Exercise), 2 credits: Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction

Introduction - theory (Introduction - Theory), 3.5 credits: Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction

Geographic Information Systems GIS exercise, bases (GIS - Lab) 1.5 credits: Fail/Pass

Geographic Information Systems physical planning (GIS - Planning) 1.5 credits: Fail/Pass

Geographic information systems, GIS examination (GIS - Exam) 4.5 credits: Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction

Processes in nature, laboratory sessions and exercises (Earth Surface Processes - Lab and Exercises), 3 credits: Fail/Pass

Processes in nature influence, reason for change over time and theory (Earth Surface Processes - Impact and Causes of Change, Theory), 4.5 credits: Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction

Population trend, urbanisation and exercise (Population trend and urbanisation, Exercise), 3.5 credits: Fail/Pass

Population trend, urbanisation and examination (Population trend and urbanisation, Exam), 4 credits: Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit and 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 internships 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).

To pass the course, all modules, including compulsory modules, must be passed. To obtain the final grade of Pass with distinction (VG), a minimum of 51 % Pass with distinction (VG) is required on the modules within the course where the grading scale Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction is applied.

**Course evaluation**

The students are given possibility to anonymous, written evaluation at the end of the course.

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

**Additional information**

Excursions may involve additional costs for the student.