UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

GV0401 Earth Science Seminar I: Planning a Scientific Study, 5 higher education credits

Geovetenskap Seminarium I: Att planera ett vetenskapligt arbete, 5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Earth Sciences on 2016-07-01 and was last revised on 2016-07-11 to be valid from 2016-07-11, autumn semester of 2016.

Field of education: Science 100%
Department: Department of Earth Sciences

Position in the educational system

The course is intended for students in the Master's program in Earth Sciences, N2GVS. The course is complemented by GV0500.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Earth Sciences (N2GVS)

Main field of studies	*Specialization*
Earth Sciences	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

165 hec in the main field of Earth Sciences, 90% thereof with at least grade "pass". Students with comparable qualifications may, after evaluation, attend the course.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Know and understand the essential steps needed to plan research on the level expected in a Master's thesis project. This includes problem analysis, formulation of a research question and hypothesis, analysis of data requirements, literature research, judgment of potential obstacles, developing a work- and time plan.
- Students will also be made aware of different career opportunities for graduated geoscientists in research and practice and the specific requirements and challenges associated with the different options.

Skills and abilities

- Students will be able to develop a clearly structured, consistent research plan.
- Students will be able

Judgement and approach

On the level that can be expected from a student in a Master's program:

- Understand the requirements and obstacles that are associated with planning and carrying out research.
- Ability to judge the quality of a research question.

Course content

The objective of the course is to assist students in the process of planning a research project in Earth Sciences. A special focus is on the Master's Thesis project. A secondary objective is to provide information on the existing job opportunities for graduates in geosciences, both in research, industry and consulting. The course will serve as a platform for discussion of problems related to thesis work and general questions related to geosciences. This will be achieved by the active participation of research staff and invited guests.

Form of teaching

The course consists of two elements: Seminar (3hp) and Project (2hp).

The seminar requires attendance and active participation in discussions. The seminar includes:

- Talks by researchers from within the department and by invited speakers from both research and practice.
- Short courses on technical and organizational issues around planning and carrying out research activities including formalities of the thesis process.

The project, which can be done in groups or individually, consists of the development of a research plan and a SWOT analysis of it.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course consists of two elements: Seminar (3hp) and Project (2hp).

Seminar: Attendance in 70% of classes and active participation in discussions. Students who cannot participate in the expected number of scheduled classes can alternatively submit a written report showing that they have acquired the knowledge and skills provided in the course. Scope and content of the report are set by the course leader.

Project: Oral presentation and report.

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 (G) and Fail (U).
The final grade is G (pass) or U (fail).

To receive a G (pass) for the entire course, both parts (seminar, 3hp and project 2 hp) have to be passed individually.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation is performed in two steps. Partly in dialogue with students and course coordinator, partly in an anonymous questionnaire via GUL.

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

The course will be on the materials provided during the course.

Students enrolled in the Master's program in Earth Sciences, N2GVS, have priority to the course