



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 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), 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, 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/practices of environmental conflicts and collaboration for sustainability, as well as their interrelationships;
- identify causes and driving forces behind environmental conflicts at different levels and scales;

Competence and skills

- independently write a coherent and well structured home exam on mitigation and transformation of a specific environmental conflict;
- show proficiency in presenting results from individual and group assignments verbally and in writing;
- systematically, critically and constructively comment on other students 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 prevent and/or mitigate such conflicts from an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspective;
- identify and assess potential approaches and policies to facilitate and enforce conflict transformation and collaboration for sustainability in order to prevent and/or mitigate environmental conflicts.

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. The causes and driving forces behind environmental conflicts are diverse, complex and often interlinked, ranging from global economic development and population increase to poor governance, inequalities, injustice, and incompatible social values. In order to solve existing environmental conflicts and decrease the risk of future conflicts, approaches that enhance and enforce communication and collaboration for sustainability at global, regional, national and local levels are key.

In the course the driving forces behind environmental conflicts and disputes at different levels and scales are critically analyzed and approaches to facilitate and enforce mediation, communication and collaboration are presented and discussed.

The course consists of four components:

1. Presentation of key theoretical approaches related to environmental conflicts and collaboration for sustainability
2. Examples of existing environmental conflicts at different levels and scales.
3. Approaches and policies to facilitate and enforce collaboration and conflict transformation.
4. Individual analysis by the students, using theoretical approaches presented in component 1, of examples of environmental conflicts and potential collaborative approaches to solve them.

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. Group work on a selected conflict is carried out and is part of the preparation for the individual take home exam that concludes the course. Supervision is offered both in groups and individually during the entire course.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course is examined using oral and written examinations. Course parts 1 – 3 are examined through individual, written assignments and orally presented group assignments, while part 4 is examined through an individual essay which must also be presented orally.

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 all individual and group assignments in course parts 1 – 3, and the individual essay in course part 4. In order to obtain the grade Pass with Distinction for the whole course, the student has at least to receive Pass on all individual and group assignments in course parts 1 – 3, and Pass with Distinction for the individual essay in course part 4.

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.