



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

HU1132 Environmental Movements and Policy, 15 credits

Miljörelser och miljöpolitik, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2006-11-20 and was last revised on 2016-11-15 by Department of Global Studies to be valid from 2016-11-15, spring semester of 2017.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

This is a core course at first cycle level.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Program in Environmental Social Science (S1SML), 2) Program in Environmental Social Science (S1SMI) and 3) BA-program in Global Studies (S1GLS)

Main field of studies

Human Ecology

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

- give an account of the emergence, perspective and strategies of different environmental movements;

- account for different theoretical starting points for nature views and environmental work;
- describe how care for humans, animals and nature is motivated from different ethical perspectives;

Competence and skills

- identify relevant actors in concrete current cases in environmental work;
- apply power analysis to environmental issues;
- investigate the connection between nature, ethics and environmental policy;
- carry out a case study of an environmental conflict using human ecological concepts;

Judgement and approach

- evaluate how notions of nature can affect the development of society.

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 provides basic knowledge and understanding of the historical, political, power, ethical and practical aspects of environmental work. Furthermore, the course provides knowledge about the origin of environmental problems and social management.

The course consists of three subparts:

1. **The emergence of the environmental work** (4 credits) deals with ideas, events and movements that have had great significance for today's environmental work, and their historical roots, as well as how these ideas, events and movements have influenced the focus of today's environmental work. The component also deals with different cultures' perceptions of nature in a historical perspective.
2. **Environment, ethics and policy** (6 credits) deals with how prevailing perspectives and strategies in environmental work differ in terms of ethical points of departure (eg biocentrism, utilitarianism) and ideological preferences (eg liberalism, feminism). Furthermore, the importance of power for both the emergence of environmental problems and the solution of them is addressed and discussed.
3. **The environmental work in practice** (5 credits) deals with environmental work from an applied perspective. Partly through a review of the laws and decision-making

processes that regulate and govern the concrete environmental work and partly through how the complex is treated by actors who directly or indirectly participate in and influence this work. The component treats both national and regional (EU) and international level. The component ends with the course participants studying and analyzing the societal management of a specific environmental project / environmental problem based on power, ethical and ideological dimensions.

Form of teaching

Teaching is based on lectures, seminars and work individually and in groups.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish

The main part of the reading list is in English.

Assessment

The course is assessed through take-home examination, individual written assignments and group assignments that include presentation and critical review.

The course includes components with requirements on physical attendance and active participation, since it contributes to the collective learning and to develop the student's ability to communicate and discuss acquired knowledge in dialogue orally with others. These components are therefore compulsory. If special circumstances apply, written supplementary qualification of graduate student achievement is admitted. A supplementary qualification is based on the same assignment as the original examination. If a student does not submit supplementary qualification in exposed time, the student on the examination assignment fails.

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 the case where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student will normally be guaranteed access to at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year, based on the earlier planning of the course.

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Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

For the grade Pass, it is required that all compulsory components and examinations on the module are passed. Pass with distinction requires Pass with distinction on take-home examination and passed on other compulsory components and examinations.

Course evaluation

Course coordinator is required to ensure that the students are given the opportunity to evaluate the course each time orally and in writing it be given and that the evaluation is included as a basis for the continuous development of both the course and its place in the education system.