



## DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SCIENCES

### **MAR461 The Sea and Society Relationship; Historical Perspectives, Present Status and Future Challenges, 15 credits**

Relationen hav - samhälle; historiska perspektiv, dagens situation och framtidens utmaningar, 15 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Marine Sciences on 2018-01-24 and was last revised on 2024-01-24 to be valid from 2024-09-02, autumn semester of 2024.

*Field of education:* Science 100%

*Department:* Department of Marine Sciences

#### *Other participating departments*

School of Global Studies

Department of Political Science

Department of Law

Department of Economy and Society

Department of Business Administration

Department of Historical Studies

Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion

Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science

HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design

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

The course can be taken as a freestanding course or as an elective course in a Master's Programme.

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), 3) Marine Science, Master's Programme (N2MAV), 4) Environmental Sciences (N2MVN), 5) Master's Programme in Earth Sciences (N2GVS) and 6) Biology, Master's Programme (N2BIO)

*Main field of studies*

Marine Sciences

Sea and Society

*Specialization*

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

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**Entry requirements**

A Bachelor's degree (180 credits) and English B/English 6 at upper secondary level or equivalent IELTS 6.5 where no section may be less than 5.5, or TOEFL 575 points, TWE 4.5 points.

**Learning outcomes**

After completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

- Describe various human uses of the sea from prehistory to present.
- Understand emotional and philosophical relationships between man and the sea and their role in different human cultures.
- Have knowledge about various marine archives.
- Understand the main environmental impacts and conflicts associated with historical uses and overuses of the seas.
- Describe and understand the tragedy of the commons and issues related to collective actions.

*Competence and skills*

- Identify threats and challenges into the future and disentangle their relationships with different scenarios of development of the human societies, and in addition how these relate to different governance structures.
- Choose and use methods to analyze various aspects of the sea and society relationships during historical and current times

*Judgement and approach*

- Discuss the implications of changes in how various marine resources are valued and looked upon (e.g. seals as an exotic part of wildlife, or a competitor to the artisan fisheries) by different stakeholders.
- Assess the shifts of the baseline over historical times and value the importance of this shift.

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 content aims to get a basic understanding of how the relationship between the sea and the human society from prehistorical times and up to today has changed, and what conflicts are associated with different aspects of societal "interests" and "uses" of the sea and its resources. This also includes analyses of important trends in to the future.

The Course consists of lectures, exercises and discussions. The course also includes individual and/or group projects and reports.

#### *Sub-courses*

**1. Internet-based tests** (*Internetbaserade prov*), 7.5 credits

Grading scale: Pass (G) and Fail (U)

**2. Project** (*Projekt*), 7.5 credits

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

### **Form of teaching**

The first six weeks of the course consists of lectures given by university teachers from different disciplines. Group discussions and short written reports of well-defined tasks are complements. The last three weeks consist of group project work on a topic related to the course themes which result in an oral presentation.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

The course is examined through weekly web-based individual tests and a final oral presentation of a group project.

During the first 6 weeks, the student must pass weekly exams to pass the first sub-course. The tests focus on the content presented during each week. The grade given is pass/fail (G/U). If a student fails a test, he/she will be given the chance to repeat the test. In addition, it's compulsory to actively attend at least 60% of the assignments during each week.

The final group project will result in an oral presentation and will be graded individually pass with distinction/pass/fail (VG/G/U).

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).

If a student has a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg regarding special educational support, the examiner (in case it is compatible with the course's objectives and if not unreasonable resources are required) can decide to give the student an alternative examination form.

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, but maximum two years from the last time the course was given.

### **Grades**

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

A student will be given the grade G if he/she has pass on all weekly tests and G on the final individual project work.

The grade VG for the whole course requires G on all weekly tests and VG on the final individual project work. A description of the criteria for getting G or VG on the individual project work will be made available on Canvas at the start of the course.

Regarding the application of ECTS scales, please see Vice-Chancellor's decision 2007-05-28, dnr G 8 1976/07 as well as 2011-02-28, dnr O 2009/5545.

### **Course evaluation**

A written and oral evaluation of the course will be carried out at the end of the course. In the written evaluation, the student is anonymous. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the students and will function as a guide for the development of the course.

### **Additional information**

A two-day excursion to the Tanum rock carving field station is planned during the course. Travel costs and food during field visits are paid by the student.