



## DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SCIENCES

### **MAR480 Degree Project for master in Sea and Society, 30 credits**

Examenskurs för masterexamen i Hav och samhälle, 30 högskolepoäng

*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Marine Sciences on 2020-09-17 to be valid from 2020-09-18, autumn semester of 2020.

*Field of education:* Science 100%

*Department:* Department of Marine Sciences

#### *Other participating departments*

Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

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

Valand Academy

Department of Economics

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

The course is a degree project course in Sea and Society at the second-cycle level. It consists of a degree project comprising 30 higher education credits.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Sea and Society, Master's Programme (N2HSH)

*Main field of studies*

*Specialization*

Sea and Society

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

### **Entry requirements**

Eligibility for the course includes a Bachelor of Science degree (180 credits) and a minimum of 60 credits within Sea and Society.

In addition, English B/English 6 at upper secondary level or equivalent results from an internationally recognized English test is required.

### **Learning outcomes**

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

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- have in-depth theoretical knowledge within the field of sea and society and to put this knowledge into an interdisciplinary systems-thinking
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the theoretical background of the complexity of many of the problems that currently challenges a sustainable development of humans' use of the sea
- independently contribute to the development of knowledge within the field of sea and society

#### *Competence and skills*

- be able to critically and systematically integrate knowledge from different disciplines and be able to analyze, assess and deal with complex phenomena, questions and situations relating to the sea and society interface
- in-depth knowledge of scientific methodology, within quantitative and/or qualitative methods that are relevant to the subject of sea and society
- critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate research questions within the main field of study
- independently plan, organize and conduct a theoretical or experimental study within given time frames
- ability to communicate findings orally and in writing

#### *Judgement and approach*

- demonstrate an ability to make assessments within the field of sea and society, taking into account relevant aspects from e.g. natural, social, economic, legal and/or historical sciences, and also demonstrate an awareness of relevant ethical aspects of research and development work

- demonstrate the ability to search, evaluate and critically interpret relevant information for the work
- demonstrate an ability to identify needs of additional knowledge and skills in an applied field

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 comprises, correspondingly, a semester's studies in which the student carries out and presents independent scientific work in the field of sea and society.

The task can be:

- an empirical field study
- an analysis and evaluation of existing scientific data
- critical literature review based on original work.

The degree project can take place at any of the participating departments in the Master's Programme in Sea and Society, at another department in the subject area or externally at a public or private organization in Sweden or abroad, e.g. companies, institutes or public authorities or at other higher education institutions. Students should have one or more supervisors for their degree project. At least one supervisor must be affiliated with the University of Gothenburg, have a doctoral degree and be approved by the course coordinator. For students who do projects outside of GU, there should always be an internal supervisor from the university with overall responsibility.

The completed work is presented both in writing and verbally in the form of a scientific report and through an oral presentation at a final seminar with participation of the examiner and the other students from the master's programme in Sea and Society.

### **Form of teaching**

The course is an independent work in which the student will study a scientific question. For guidance during the work there is a scientifically trained supervisor.

*Language of instruction:* English and Swedish

Depending on the language proficiency of the student and the request of the organization, teaching/supervision takes place in English or Swedish.

**Assessment**

The work will culminate in a scientific report in English and a summary in Swedish (if the student is Swedish-speaking). The work is presented orally at the end of the course.

The student's performance is assessed by an examiner appointed by the Examiner group according to a routine decided by the Faculty of Science. The Examiner group has members from different faculties and departments.

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). Concerning application of the ECTS scale for grade please see Vice-Chancellor's decision 28/05/2007, No. G 8 197/07 as well as 28/02/2011, No. O 2009/05545.

**Course evaluation**

A written course evaluation is made at the end of the course at Canvas, where the student participates anonymously.

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**

To be admitted to the course, the student must have found a supervisor and a degree project that can be accepted by the course coordinator.

The course literature is determined individually for each student in consultation with the supervisor and the examiner.