



DEPARTMENT OF PEDAGOGICAL, CURRICULAR AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

PDG459 Teaching sustainable development in a global perspective, 7.5 credits

Undervisning för hållbar utveckling i ett globalt perspektiv, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Pedagogical, Curricular and Professional Studies on 2015-02-02 and was last revised on 2020-03-18 to be valid from 2020-03-25, spring semester of 2020.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Pedagogical, Curricular and Professional Studies

Position in the educational system

Main field of studies

Educational Sciences

Specialization

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements for university studies and the Swedish upper secondary course English B/English 6 or equivalent.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- outline the concept of sustainable development in ecological, social and economic terms in different contexts,
- discuss effects on the environment of human activity,
- show knowledge about different approaches for teaching sustainable development.

Competence and skills

- analyze and discuss teaching strategies to local and global sustainability problems,
- use research-based knowledge to problematize teaching and learning for a sustainable future.

Judgement and approach

- evaluate and relate to different and contested positions concerning education for sustainable development,
- articulate personal values regarding human relations to the environment and other species.

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 addresses how aspects of sustainable development can be integrated into schoolwork in ways that encourage student awareness of sustainability issues. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives on the complex content of sustainable development will be discussed from an educational perspective, in which teaching and learning will be problematised and informed by educational research from different subject perspectives. The course aims to increase student's ability to reflect on and centrally position, both as individuals and in subject groups, issues of sustainable development across the curriculum. The course is oriented around three thematic strands:

1. Human activities and their impact on society and the environment,
2. Social participation and the politics of engagement,
3. Personal and curriculum values in relation to life on earth.

The multiple experiences and cultural backgrounds of the participants will be an integral part of all three strands.

Form of teaching

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Examination takes place at three times during the course. As one examination, the students provide a written response to a literature theme in the course. The second examination involves active participation in a course project preparatory workshop. The final examination includes an oral and written individual project presentation of a local or global environmental problem describing, and analyzing, didactical aspects of it.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

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, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (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).

The written response and participation in the course project preparatory workshop is given the grade Pass (G) or Fail (U). The individual project is given the grade Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) or Fail (U).

In order to receive Pass on the whole course, Pass is required for all examinations. In order to receive Pass with Distinction on the whole course, Pass with Distinction is required for the individual project and Pass on the other two examinations.

Course evaluation

Students will be given an opportunity to make a written individual evaluation of the course. The outcome of the evaluation will be communicated to the students and will serve as a ground for development of the course.

Additional information

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 the spring semester 2020, temporary changes were made to the syllabi at first and second levels due to the transition to distance education, see GU 2020/946.

The transition has resulted in changed forms of teaching and changed forms of examination. Web based information and communication via the University of Gothenburg's learning platform is used and a computer with internet connection is required.