



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Political Science

1SK133 Hållbarhet och flernivåstyrning, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Sustainability and multilevel governance, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Political Science

Subject

Political Science

Level

First cycle

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2018-12-12.

Revised 2026-01-20. The prerequisite requirement has been supplemented with subjects according to GY25.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2026.

Prerequisites

General entry requirements + English 6 and Civics 1b alt. Civics 1a1 +1a2.

Or: English 2 and Civics level 1b alt. Civics level 1a1 +1a2

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- Describe the concepts of sustainability and governance from different perspectives and critically discuss the role of various actors for how the sustainability concept is defined and used.

- Identify and explain important international agreements and co-operation on sustainability and the role of different organisations in this work at various levels of governance (globally, such as the UN, regionally, such as the EU, nationally and locally)
- Use the example of the EU to demonstrate how sustainability policies and goals are implemented at the various levels of governance.

Content

This course provides an overview of different perspectives on the concept of sustainability. How can human development of current generations be combined with keeping the same possibilities for future generations? This perspective includes economic development, social development and protection of the natural environment. Building on this, the course looks at international agreements and co-operation concerning sustainable development and important organisations that are involved in these matters. How are sustainability policies and goals initiated and shaped? Which actors are important in these processes? Special attention is given to how these policies and goals are implemented at various levels of multilevel governance (as illustrated by the EU system) and the actors that are involved in these processes.

Type of Instruction

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars and supervision.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E or F.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that qualifies as a Pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as Fail. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to complement her/his examination.

In order to receive a grade of E in the course, all the objectives must be fulfilled. To be awarded a final grade of D-A in the course, it is required that the grading criteria are fulfilled based on a weighted assessment of the grades for all the examination assignments. Students who have not passed (i.e. received the grade of F) the scheduled examination, will be offered a new examination shortly after the scheduled examination date. Information about the grading scale A-F is given in a separate document, provided at the start of the course, at the latest.

Examination of the course takes place by means of seminars and a written exam.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation are presented to the students who have completed the course, as well as to new students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Kalfagianni, Agni; Fuchs, Doris A.; Hayden, Anders (Eds.) (Latest edition). *Routledge Handbook of Global Sustainability Governance*. New York, NY: Routledge. 410 p.

Mulligan, Martin (Latest edition). *An introduction to sustainability: environmental, social and personal perspectives*. London: Routledge, 338 p.

Additional journal articles and book chapters (about 300 pages) accessed via the virtual learning environment or the University library.