



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Social Studies

ISO153 Miljö- och klimatfrågor i ett globalt perspektiv, 7,5
högskolepoäng

Global Environment Issues, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Sociology

Subject Group

Sociology

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

GIN

Date of Ratification

Approved 2014-12-10

Revised 2019-11-14 by Faculty of Social Sciences. Change of literature.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2020

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Objectives

After completing the course, students shall be able to:

- identify the main environmental issues at the global level;
- explain the socio-economic mechanisms behind the emergence of environmental issues.
- critically discuss information on environmental issues derived from mass-media and popular science outlets.

Content

Human population and consumption increased at an unprecedented pace during the last two centuries. This led both to the extension of “traditional” environmental problems (deforestation, field salinization, organic pollutant concentration, etc.) and to the birth of a new class of global environmental issues (climate change, ozone layer depletion, biodiversity loss, etc.).

This module aims at creating a better understanding of current environmental issues and of their causes. Environmental problems are analyzed using the social dilemma concept, and the possible solutions are presented and discussed. More generally, the module will introduce and discuss the relation between the growth of the population and the economy and environmental sustainability using a global perspective.

Type of Instruction

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures, seminars and assignments.

Examination

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

Grade A is the highest grade and all other grades follow a falling scale in which grade E is the lowest grade to pass the course. A grade F means that the student has failed the course. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to complement her/his examination.

Students who have failed the course (in other words, got an F) during the scheduled course examination date will receive the opportunity to go through an additional examination shortly after the ordinary course examination date.

Obligatory participation in seminars. Active participation in class, in addition to results in oral and written exams, will be assessed.

Course Evaluation

DA 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.

Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: The course is equivalent to the third module in 1SH155.

Other

The course is taught in English.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

John M. Anderies, Marco A. Janssen (latest edition), *Sustaining the Commons*. Arizona State University, <http://sustainingthecommons.asu.edu/about-book/> (eBook 180 p.)

Bell, Simon and Morse Stephen (latest edition). *Routledge Handbook of Sustainability Indicators*. New York: Routledge, Chapters 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 26, 31, 33, (127 p.)

Donella Meadows, Dennis Meadows, Jorgen Randers (lates edition), *Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update*. Chelsea Green Publishing (342 p.)

Scientific articles , app. 60 pages.

- ArcheoGlobe project (2019), *Archaeological assessment reveals Earth's early transformation through land use*. *Science*, 365, 897-902.

- Bongaarts, John (2016), *Development: Slow down population growth*. *Nature*, 530, 409-412.

- Bongaarts, John & O'Neill, Brian C. (2018). *Global warming policy: Is population left out in the cold?* *Science*, 361, 650-652.

- Crist, Eileen; Mora, Camilo & Engelman, Robert (2017), *The interaction of human population, food production, and biodiversity protection*. *Science*, 356, 260-264.

In Hossain, Moazzem; Hales, Robert & Sarker, Tapan (Eds.), *Pathways to a Sustainable Economy*. Berlin: Springer, pp. 103-125.

- O'Sullivan, Jane N. (2018), *Synergy between population policy, climate adaptation and mitigation*.
- Steffen, W. et al. (2015) *Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet*. *Science*, 347, 1259855.
- Wynes, Seth & Nicholas, Kimberly A. (2017). *The climate mitigation gap: education and government recommendations miss the most effective individual actions*. *Environmental Research Letters*, 12, 074024.