



Course syllabus

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Department of Biology and Environmental Science

4MX016 Miljöriskkommunikation, 7.5 credits

Environmental Risk Communication

Main field of study

Environmental Science

Subject Group

Environmental Science

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Health and Life Sciences 2021-04-06

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2022

Prerequisites

Natural science, social science or technical university education of least 90 ECTS.

Objectives

The course gives the student knowledge to choose and apply different communication tools for environmental risks from a scientific perspective.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- in detail describe the concept of environmental risk communication;
- in detail describe risk perception and attitudes to environmental risks, and the relationship between these two concepts;
- analyse the importance of attitudes connected to trust and credibility;
- discuss and analyse the role of media in environmental risk communication;
- discuss and suggest strategies for environmental risk communication within authorities, companies and organisations;
- apply ethical considerations;
- analyse the implementation of catastrophe and crisis management within authorities, companies and organisations, and
- suggest how communication of uncertainty and risks in quantitative environmental risk assessments can be improved.

Content

- Definitions within risk communication.
- Risk perception.
- Attitudes.
- Communication plan.
- Trust and credibility.
- The role of media.
- Risk communication within agencies, companies and organisations.
- Catastrophes and crisis management.
- Communication of uncertainty and risk estimates in quantitative risk assessments.
- Case studies.
- Research Ethics.

Type of Instruction

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Participation in the seminars is mandatory.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

As examination task, the students write and present a report with an example on how to communicate environmental risks. The report presentation is performed both written and orally at the end of the course (Internet seminars).

Examination criteria to pass the course are defined by the Objectives (see above).

Course Evaluation

During the implementation of the course or in close connection to the course a course evaluation is to be carried out. Result and analysis of the course evaluation is to be presented as feedback both to the students who have completed the course and to the students who are to participate on the course the next time it is offered. The course evaluation is to be carried out anonymously.

Other

The course is web-based with one or two obligatory meetings in Kalmar.
The course participants need access to Internet.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Obligatory literature

Hedman, L. (1999) *Att kommunicera risker*. Räddningsverket, Karlstad. ISBN 91-7253-021-9. 92 s.

Hedquist, R. (2002) *Trovärdighet – en förutsättning för förtroende*. Styrelsen för psykologiskt försvar, Stockholm. Rapport 182. ISSN 1401-2383. 71 s.

Rimal, R.N. & Real, K. (2003) *Perceived Risk and Efficacy Beliefs as Motivators of Change. Use of the Risk Perception Attitude (RPA) Framework to Understand Health Behaviours*. Human Communication Research, 29, 3, pp. 370-399.

Williamson, J. & Weyman, A. (2005) *Review of the Public Perception of Risk, and Stakeholder Engagement*, HSL/2005/16. Health & Safety Laboratory, Buxton, 46 s.

Additional articles and reports will be added.

Reference literature

Cho, H., Reimer, T. & McComas, K. (Senaste utgåvan.) *The SAGE handbook of risk communication*. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

Granger Morgan, M., Fischhoff, B., Bostrom, A. & Atman, C.J. (Senaste utgåvan.) *Risk Communication. A Mental Models Approach*. Cambridge University Press. UK.

Lundgren, R.E. & McMakin, A.H. (Senaste utgåvan.) *Risk communication. A handbook for communicating environmental, safety, and health risks*. Wiley.