

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Governance and Management of Social-Ecological Systems
Styrning och förvaltning av social-ekologiska system

15.0 Higher Education
Credits
15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL8050
Valid from:	Spring 2020
Date of approval:	2010-08-20
Changed:	2019-12-06
Department	Department of Biology Education
Main field:	Social-Ecological Resilience for Sustainable Development
Specialisation:	A1F - Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus has been approved by the Board of the Faculty of Science at Stockholm University.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

For admission to the course, knowledge is required equivalent to Social-ecological systems: challenges and approaches, 15 credits (BL7028) and Systems theory and resilience thinking, 15 credits (BL8049). English 6 or equivalent.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
DEL1	Transformative strategies for governance	4
DEL2	Economic perspectives	4
DEL3	Theories and methods for governance of common-pool resources	3
DEL4	Adaptive processes in social-ecological systems	4

Course content

a. This course explores alternative approaches for analysing how people make choices, engage in learning, collaborate in networks, adapt to and change institutions (rules), and manage and govern social-ecological systems. The course analyses how institutions and governance can be designed at different organisational levels to adapt to social-ecological change and to transform governance and management. The course analyses economic and interdisciplinary theories and methods for decision-making under uncertainty and how collaboration for common-pool resources can overcome narrow strategic behaviour and instead result in decisions which improves the outcome for all. The student is introduced to adaptive approaches based on learning and re-evaluation.

The student studies how actors can collaborate in networks to promote learning and trust-building and thereby alter power structures and facilitate transformations. The student learns how to apply cost-benefit analysis, game theory (strategic behaviour) and other theories and methods and conduct group and individual research projects that utilize these concepts and methods.

b. The course consists of the following modules:

1. Transformativa strategier för styrning (Transformative strategies for governance) 4 hp
2. Ekonomiska perspektiv (Economic perspectives) 4 hp
3. Teorier och metoder för styrning av gemensamma naturresurser (Theories and methods for governance of common-pool resources) 3 hp

4. Adaptiva processer i social-ekologiska system (Adaptive processes in social-ecological systems) 4 hp

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- Explain the challenges and opportunities of adaptive governance and transformative governance (module 1-4).
- Explain how human behaviour relates to the creation of and solution to ecological problems (module 1-4).
- Analyse the interplay at different scales between actor networks, social learning and institutional change (module 1-4).
- Explain the difference between conventional, adaptive, and transformative governance of social-ecological systems (module 1).
- Explain decision analysis under uncertainty in simple real world situations (module 2).
- Problematize rational choice in relation to the Tragedy of open access collaborative processes (module 3).
- Explain the conceptual foundations of adaptive processes, apply this on social and biological phenomena and understand the interplay between local adaptive processes and large-scale structures (module 4).

Education

Teaching consists of lectures, group exercises and seminars. Participation in group exercises, seminars and any associated integrated instruction is compulsory. In the event of special circumstances, the examiner may, after consultation with the teacher concerned, grant a student exemption from the obligation to participate in certain compulsory instruction.

The course is offered in English.

Forms of examination

a. The course is examined as follows: Knowledge assessment takes the form of written and oral presentations and activity at seminars. Examination is conducted in English.

b. Grades will be set according to a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A = Excellent

B = Very Good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Fail, some additional work required

F = Fail, much additional work required

c. The grading criteria will be distributed at the beginning of the course.

d. In order to pass the course, students must receive a passing grade on all course units and participation in all mandatory instruction.

The final grade on the course is determined by weighting the grades from all course units, where each grade is weighted in relation to the scope of the course unit.

e. Students who receive a failing grade on a regular examination are allowed to retake the examination as long as the course is still provided. The number of examination opportunities is not limited. Other mandatory course elements are equated with examinations. A student who has received a passing grade on an examination may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade. A student who has failed the same examination twice is entitled to have another examiner appointed, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the department board.

The course includes at least two examination opportunities for each course unit per year when the course is given. At least one examination opportunity will be offered during a year when the course is not given.

f. Students awarded the grade Fx are given the opportunity to improve their grade to E. The examiner decides the supplementary assignments to be performed and the pass mark criteria. The supplementary assignments will take place before the next examination session.

Interim

Students may request that the examination be conducted in accordance with this course plan even after it has ceased to be valid. However, this may not take place more than three times over a two year period after course instruction has ended. Requests must be made to the departmental board. The provision also applies in the case of revisions to the course plan (and the revisions of the course literature).

Misc

The course is part of the Master's Programme in Resilience in Social-Ecological Systems.

Required reading

The course literature is decided by the department board and published on the course page in the online catalogue at least two months before the start of the course.