

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Urban social-ecological systems**

**Urbana social-ekologiska system**

**15.0 Higher Education**

**Credits**

**15.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	BL7031
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2012
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2011-09-05
<b>Department</b>	Department of Biology Education
<b>Main field:</b>	Social-Ecological Resilience for Sustainable Development
<b>Specialisation:</b>	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-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

Admittance to the course requires knowledge equivalent to 180 credits, including a minimum of 75 credits in any of the disciplines Biology, Geography, History or Political science. (Three credits corresponds to approximately two weeks full-time studies). Swedish upper secondary school course English B or equivalent or one of the following tests. Cambridge CPE och CAE: Pass. IELTS : 6.0 (with no part of the test below 5.0). TOEFL (paper based): 550 (with minimum grade 4 on the written test part). TOEFL (computer based): 213. TOEFL (internet based): 79.

## Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
7A31	Theory	7.5
7B31	Project work	7.5

## Course content

a. The course covers the following areas: urban research (history, the concept of city, discourses), urbanisation and its drivers and challenges i different parts of the worlds; Urban resilience and sustainable developments; Urban ecology, Urban systems in comparison with other systems, Urban ecosystem services, biodiversity and health, Institutional dynamics in Cities in relation to land use, Interaction between city and rural areas, Social-ecological perspective in urban planning and design, Methods for social-ecological studies in cities.

b. The course includes the following elements, Theory (7,5 hp) and Project work (7,5 hp).

## Learning outcomes

It is expected that the student after taking the course will be able to:

summarise the urban discourse in different disciplines, relate urbanisation to other kinds of global change, describe and analyse cities using social-ecological systems theory and critically discuss its use in understanding cities, relate cities to other systems, develop and present strategies to address real societal challenges in collaboration with colleagues (project work), understand the role of different actors and strategies in the context of planning.

### **Education**

The education consists of lectures, group work, study visits, roll play and seminars seminars. Participation in group work, study visits, roll play, seminars and group education associated with this is compulsory. An examiner may rule that a student is not obliged to participate in certain compulsory education if there are special grounds for this after consultation with the relevant teacher.

### **Forms of examination**

a. Examination for the course is in the following manner: measurement of knowledge for element 1 & 2 takes place through:

Written and oral presentations.

b. Grading is carried out according to a 7-point scale related to learning objectives:

A = Excellent

B = Very Good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Sufficient

Fx = Fail

F = Fail

c. Grading criteria for the course will be distributed at the start of the course.

d. A minimum grade of E is required to pass the course, together with:

- approved group discussions, seminars and group works
- participation in all compulsory education

e. Students who fail to achieve a pass grade in an ordinary examination have the right to take at least further four examinations, as long as the course is given. The term “examination” here is used to denote also other compulsory elements of the course. Students who have achieved a pass grade on an examination may not retake this examination in order to attempt to achieve a higher grade. Students who have failed to reach a pass grade on two occasions have the right to request that a different teacher be appointed to set the grade of the course. A request for such appointment must be sent to the departmental board.

### **Interim**

Students may request that the examination is carried out in accordance with this syllabus even after it has ceased to apply. This right is limited, however, to a maximum of three occasions during a two-year-period after the end of giving the course. A request for such examination must be sent to the departmental board.

### **Limitations**

The course can not be included in a degree together with the course Natural Resources and Society 10 p (BI3560) or the equivalents.

### **Misc**

The course is a component of the Master's Programme in Biology, and it can also be taken as an individual course. The course is given in collaboration with Stockholm Resilience Centre.

### **Required reading**

Course literature is decided by the departmental board and is described in an appendix to the syllabus.