

# 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>	Spring 2016
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2011-09-05
<b>Changed:</b>	2016-01-18
<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
DEL1	Theory	10
DEL2	Project work	5

## Course content

- a. The course covers the following areas:
- \* introduction to the city as a social-ecological system
  - \* drivers behind urbanisation, Stockholm in focus
  - \* urban resilience and sustainable development
  - \* urban ecology, urban ecosystem services and biodiversity
  - \* institutional settings and preconditions in cities
  - \* urban planning
  - \* methods for social-ecological studies in cities

The course includes the following parts:

1. Theory 10 hp
2. Project work 5 hp

### **Learning outcomes**

After the course, students are expected to:

- \* be able to understand and discuss the role of cities in relation to sustainable development
- \* be capable of discussing the above from an ecosystem services perspective
- \* be able to describe and analyse the city from a social-ecological systems perspective (theory and methods) and critically discuss the advantages with this perspective
- \* show insight into real societal challenges and be able to present solutions to these through collaboration with colleagues and project work
- \* demonstrate an understanding for the different roles and strategies of different actors involved in the planning process
- \* be able to formulate and complete field projects

### **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 takes place through: Written and oral presentations.

If the instruction is in English, the examination may also be conducted in English.

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
- and group work
- participation in all compulsory education

e. Students who fail an ordinary examination are entitled to sit additional examinations as long as the course is offered. There is no restriction on the number of examinations. Examinations also include other obligatory elements of the course. Students who have passed an examination may not resit it in order to achieve a higher grade. Students who have failed on two occasions are entitled to request the appointment of a different examiner for the next examination. Any such request must be made to the departmental board.

The course has at least two examinations for each element) for each academic year in the years in which instruction is provided. Intervening years include at least one examination.

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 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.

### **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.