

# Syllabus

for course at advanced level

**Introduction to Sustainability Science**

**Introduktion till vetenskap om hållbar utveckling**

**7.5 Higher Education**

**Credits**

**7.5 ECTS credits**

<b>Course code:</b>	BL7041
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2014
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2014-08-22
<b>Department</b>	Department of Biology Education
<b>Main field:</b>	Biology
<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 120 credits, including 90 credits in one discipline (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
HELA	Introduction to Sustainability Science	7.5

## Course content

The course covers the following topics:

The challenges of the anthropocene

Ecosystems as the basis for human development Systems thinking and complex adaptive systems The role of regime shifts and transformation in social ecological systems Resilience thinking Decision making and economic tools for governance The problem of common pool resources Adaptive management and governance

## Learning outcomes

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

- explain how humanity has affected the earth ecosystems
- explain basic concepts of system theory and basic systems analysis
- describe ecological as well as social and economic drivers for environmental change and provide a social perspective on natural resource management
- show insight of institutional aspects of natural resource management
- show a good overview of transdisciplinary methodology
- define and use the resilience concept

**Education**

The education consists of internet-based tutorials

**Forms of examination**

a. The course is examined as follows: Knowledge assessment takes the form of written 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.

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 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.

**Limitations**

The course can not be included in a degree together with the courses Natural Resources and Society 15 hp (BL7013).

**Misc**

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

**Required reading**

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