

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Political Ecology - Land Use and Natural Resources in a Local to Global Perspective **15.0 Higher Education Credits**
Politisk ekologi - markanvändning och naturresurser i ett lokalt till globalt perspektiv **15.0 ECTS credits**

Course code: GE7075
Valid from: Autumn 2016
Date of approval: 2016-01-18
Department: Department of Physical Geography
Main field: Geography
Specialisation: A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Science at Stockholm University 2016-01-18.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Admission to the course requires knowledge equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in any of the major subjects Earth Sciences, geography, biology-earth sciences, environmental sciences, human geography, urban and regional planning, economic history or international relations. Or 30 credits from the Master's Programme in Globalization, Environment and Social Change at Stockholm University. Also required is knowledge equivalent to Swedish upper secondary school course English B/English 6.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
DEL1	Theory and Methods	10
DEL2	Project	5

Course content

a. The course covers the use of land and other natural resources from local to global scale and in a political-ecological perspective. The course begins with a theoretical block where the development of Political Ecology is presented, and where comparisons are made with other scientific perspectives regarding land use and natural resource management (e.g. Geographic Landscape Analysis and Resilience Theory). This is followed by case studies of local communities' use of land and water resources, and the natural geographical conditions under which these communities exist. The character, causes and effects of changes in natural resource utilization are discussed and problematized – especially in a political-ecological perspective, but also in relation to other scientific theoretical schools.

Special focus is on social change and ecological dynamics, and how they interact in time and space. Current environmental issues are problematized and critically analyzed in relation to complexity, local contexts, historical conditions, power relations, and the ongoing process of globalization. The course also contains presentation of, and some practice in, commonly used political-ecological research methods with emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches.

b. The course consists of the following course units:
 1. Theory and Methods 10 credits

2. Project 5 credits

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- show knowledge about natural resources, natural resource use and land use, and to be able to discuss environmental issues associated with these, in a predominantly, political-ecological perspective. (Course unit 1)
- discuss environmental prerequisites, social conditions and historical perspectives in relation to a sustainable land use and natural resource management at different scales. (Course unit 1)
- apply political-ecological theories and methods for the analysis of land use issues, in a local to global scale. (Course unit 2)
- plan, design and carry out an individual project. (Course unit 2)

Education

Instruction consists of lectures, exercises, seminars, and project work.

Participation in exercises, seminars, and project work, 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.

Instructions are in English.

Forms of examination

a. Knowledge assessment takes the form of:

- written examinations
- written and oral presentation of project work.

Examination is in English.

b. Grades are assigned according to a seven-point, goal-related grading scale:

A = Excellent

B = Very good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Sufficient

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. To be awarded a pass, the minimum grade E is required, together with passed written assignments and participation in compulsory education. 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 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 course literature.

Limitations

The course may not be included in examinations in combination with course
Political Ecology - Land Use and Natural Resources in a Local to Global Perspective (GE7039) or equivalent.

Misc

The course is offered in collaboration with the Department of Human Geography. The course may include field instruction involving expenses for the student. The course is offered as a separate course.

Required reading

The course literature is decided by the department board and published on the Department of Physical Geography's website at least two months before the start of the course.