

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Environmental Science, Degree Project
Miljövetenskap, självständigt arbete

**60.0 Higher Education
Credits**
60.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	MI9008
Valid from:	Autumn 2020
Date of approval:	2020-08-17
Department	Department of Environmental Science
Main field:	Environmental Science
Specialisation:	A2E - Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Decision

This syllabus has been approved by the Board of the Faculty of Science at Stockholm University 2020-xx-xx

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Admission to the course requires knowledge equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in the Natural Sciences or Engineering and at least 30 ECTS at the advanced level in environmental science. English corresponding to Swedish upper secondary school English 6.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
PLAN	Project plan	5
RAPP	Project work	55

Course content

The course includes a project carried out according to scientific principles and presented in the form of an independently written report.

a. The course covers an introductory part where the student draws up a detailed project plan with guidance of a supervisor. The plan should include a description and, where appropriate, a test (pilot study) of relevant and applicable methods, detailed and well-motivated hypotheses and a description of the theoretical and practical aspects of the planned study. After the introductory part is passed an individual practical or theoretical project work begins. The work is presented in a written report and orally at a seminar.

b. The course comprises the following elements:

1. Project plan 5 ECTS
2. Project work 55 ECTS

Learning outcomes

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

Project plan 5 ECTS

- define and identify a problem within environmental science, formulate a relevant hypothesis and plan a project using relevant methodology

Project work 55 ECTS

- carry out and document an experimental and/or theoretical project in environmental science within the given time frame
- use, for the hypothesis, adequate methods to search, collect, gather and critically examine scientific information relevant to the subject area
- analyse, critically examine and discuss the gained results and conclusions in relation to the hypothesis and the current understanding in the subject area
- demonstrate an independent and scientific mode of work, where previously acquired knowledge is used
- show deeper theoretical and practical knowledge within a specific part of the environmental science subject area
- compile and write a scientific report in English according to general scientific rules and recommendations
- orally report and present the work and results

Education

The course is given in English. The degree project work plan is developed and carried out in collaboration with a supervisor. The project can be carried out externally at a government agency or private business with environmental science relevance. The education consists of an individual project. Attendance at seminars is compulsory.

Students are entitled to a minimum of 40 hours of supervision, with individual supervision constituting at least 14 hours. Supervision is given only within the projected time plan. In special circumstances, students can be given an extension of the time for supervision. Any such request must be made to the departmental board.

In special circumstances, students are entitled to change supervisor. Any such request must be made to the departmental board.

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Forms of examination

a. The course is examined as follows: Knowledge assessment takes the form of a written report and oral presentation of the individual project work. The examiner has the possibility to decide on adjusted or alternative examination for functionally handicapped students. Late submission of the written report will have consequences for the final course grade, and this is described in more detail in the course's grading criteria. Examination is in English.

b. 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 education.

c. The final course grade 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

The course unit 1 (project plan) will be graded according to a two-point scale: Pass (G) or Fail (U).
The course unit 2 (project work) will be graded according to a seven-point scale related to the learning objectives of the course.

To be awarded a pass, students must receive a passing grade on all course units.

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

The basic assessment criteria are:

1. Understanding of the assigned task
2. Execution of the experiment/field work/theoretical task
3. Knowledge of the theoretical background
4. Interpretation and analysis of results
5. Independence
6. Ability to keep to the agreed timetable for the work
7. Presentation – oral report
8. Presentation – written report

e. Students who receive a failing grade on a regular examination are allowed to retake the examination four times as long as the course is still provided. 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 must be made to the department board.

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. In the case of minor misunderstandings, small mistakes or too limited reasoning in some part of the report, approved supplementation results in awarding the grade of E. For approved supplementation of simple formal errors, the grades A-E may be awarded.

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 revision of the course literature.

Misc

The course is part of the Master's programme in Environmental Science but may also be taken as a separate course.

Required reading

The course literature is based on scientific publications and reports in the relevant subject area found by the student in literature searches and literature distributed by the main supervisor and/or assistant supervisor.