

Syllabus

for course at first level

Sustainability science I

Vetenskap om hållbar utveckling I

15.0 Higher Education

Credits

15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	BL3011
Valid from:	Autumn 2022
Date of approval:	2021-12-03
Department	Department of Biology Education
Main field:	Climate Science
Specialisation:	G2F - First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This course syllabus was approved by the Board of Science at Stockholm University on 17/08/2020.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

For admission to the course, knowledge is required equivalent to 60 credits in a science subject, alternatively 45 credits in the bachelor's program "Business, ethics and Sustainability".

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
DEL1	The biosphere and humankind	10
DEL2	Corporations and sustainable development in the Anthropocene	5

Course content

a. This course addresses how the biosphere, the web of life surrounding our planet, is both influenced by human activities, and a precondition for them. The course introduces Earth system science, different perspectives on sustainable development, and what these mean for business.

b. The course consists of the following modules:

1. Biosfären och människan (The biosphere and humankind), 10 hp

This course unit explores how human activities shape the biosphere, as well as the multiple ways in which humans depend on the biosphere. It identifies social-ecological challenges at local to global scales and introduces the interdisciplinary field of sustainability science.

2. Företag och hållbar utveckling i Antropocen I (Corporations and sustainable development in the Anthropocene I), 5 hp

This course unit discusses the concept of sustainable development and the roles of corporations in this endeavour. It further explores the Anthropocene, and the challenges and opportunities that this epoch poses for sustainable development.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate basic understanding of how humans and corporations depend on and influence the biosphere (module 1)
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major sustainability challenges and their social and ecological

dimensions (module 1 and 2)

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of what sustainability science is and its historical development (module 1 and 2)

Skills and competences

- Describe and discuss how different sustainability challenges have implications at different levels and scales (module 1 and 2)

- Communicate in inter- and transdisciplinary contexts (module 1 and 2)

Judgement and approach

- Analyze a set of responses to a particular sustainability challenge and critically reflect on the strengths and limitations to them (module 2)

Education

Teaching consists of lectures, group instruction, seminars, exercises, project work and excursions.

The course is offered in English.

Forms of examination

a. The course is examined in the following manner:

Assessment of module 1 and 2 takes place through written home exams and seminar activity.

The examiner can decide on adapted or alternative examination formats for students with disabilities.

The take-home examination will not be graded in case of late submission. However, the examiner should take special circumstances into account.

The examination will be conducted in English.

b. A passing final grade requires participation in group instruction, seminars, project work and excursions. If special reasons exist, following consultation with the teacher involved, the examiner may grant the student exemption from the obligation to participate in certain compulsory instruction.

c. Grading: The course's final grade is set according to a seven-point criterion-referenced scale:

A = Excellent

B = Very good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Failed, some additional work is required

F = Failed, much additional work is required

Grades of module 1 and 2 will be set according to a seven-point criterion-referenced scale.

A passing final grade requires passing grades on all included parts.

The final grade of the course is determined by weighing the grades from all course modules, where each grade is weighed in relation to the scope of the course modules.

d. The course's grading criteria are handed out at the start of the course.

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 three examination opportunities (if necessary: for each course module) per academic year the course is offered. For the academic years that the course is not offered, at least one examination opportunity is offered.

f. Students awarded the grade Fx are given the opportunity to improve their grade to E. The examiner decides on the supplementary assignments to be performed and the pass mark criteria. The supplementary assignments will take place before the next examination opportunity.

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 the course was discontinued. Requests must be made to the departmental board. The provision also applies in the case of revisions of the course syllabus and revisions of the required reading.

Misc

The course is part of the Business, Ethics and Sustainability programme but may also be taken as a separate course.

Required reading

The required reading is decided by the department board and published on the course page in the course catalogue at least 2 months before the start of the course.