

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Environment and Local Communities
Miljö och lokalsamhälle

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SV8006
Valid from:	Spring 2019
Date of approval:	2018-04-24
Department	Department of Political Science
Main field:	Political Science
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) in a social science subject with a degree project worth at least 15 credits

or

Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) with a degree project worth at least 15 credits in one of the following main fields of study:

- Geography with a specialisation in human geography
- History with a specialisation in environmental history
- Law with a specialisation in environmental law
- Environmental science with a social science specialization and English proficiency equivalent to English 6.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
8006	Environment and Local Communities	7.5

Course content

Local and various types of social communities play a central role in managing natural resources and land areas in the countryside and in cities. In today's increasingly globalized world local communities often lose control over resources, for example when external actors over-exploit or expropriate previously common natural resources or when extreme weather conditions with long-lasting drought make earlier forms of farming and stock-raising impossible. In some parts of the world such changes have forced certain groups to migrate seasonally or more permanently to the growing big cities or to other countries. The course offers deepened insight into the role of local communities in a changing world. It deals with the obstacles and possibilities that local and smaller social communities face in managing resources and creating long-term sustainability. Pollution of the environment, emissions and various forms of negative environmental impacts are not equally distributed across the world and the course examines the political and cultural geography of this environmental impact and use of resources in time and space. The course deals with different theoretical perspectives using a number of concrete case studies as starting point.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Knowledge and Understanding

- Identify and explain connections between local communities' control and management over natural resources and ambient environment, external actors' exploitation and impact on the local environment.
- Describe and contrast central theories on the relationship between the local community, mobility and environmental problems in a contemporary as well as historical perspective.

2. Skills and Abilities

- Analyze and apply central scientific approaches and methods for studying the role of local communities in managing natural resources and environmental problems.

3. Evaluation and Approach

- Critically problematize central theories on the possibilities and limitations of local communities in managing their natural resources and ambient environment.

Education

The teaching is conducted in the form of lectures and seminars. Course participants are expected to actively take part in seminar discussions and to prepare assignments for some seminar occasions. Information on how to supplement absence will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Forms of examination

Seminars are compulsory. The course requires active participation in seminar discussions and completion of seminar assignments and take-home exam.

A seven steps grading scale is used for grading. A, B, C, D and E are degrees of a passed grade. F and Fx are degrees of a failed grade. Grading criteria will be provided at the beginning of the course. It is possible for a student to supplement an examination if the obtained grade is Fx and information about this possibility is included in the provided course information. Upon being informed of the need for supplement by the examiner, the supplementary task must be submitted within five working days. If the examination supplement is accepted and has the character of supplementing a lack of understanding, minor misunderstanding, minor errors or too limited discussions for some part, the grade E will be applied. If the supplementary task is accepted and has the character of simple formality corrections, the grades A-E will be applied.

Students who have failed the course twice have the right to request another examiner. This request should be addressed to the department unit that has appointed the examiner. A student that has passed an exam may not take part in re-examination in order to obtain a higher grade.

Interim

When this course is no longer offered or when its content has been significantly modified, the student has the right to be examined according to this syllabus once each semester during a period of three semesters.

Misc

This course may not be included in a degree together with a course, taken in Sweden or elsewhere, of identical or partially similar content

Required reading

See <http://www.statsvet.su.se/english/> two months before course start, at the latest