

SYLLABUS

Conditions of environmental politics - social science perspectives on climate- and environmental challenges 15 credits S0045N

**Miljöpolitikens villkor - samhällsvetenskapliga perspektiv på klimat-
och miljöutmaningar**

Course syllabus admitted: Autumn 2023 Sp 1 - Present

**DECISION DATE
2022-02-11**

Conditions of environmental politics - social science perspectives on climate- and environmental challenges 15 credits S0045N

Miljöpolitikens villkor - samhällsvetenskapliga perspektiv på klimat- och miljöutmaningar

First cycle, S0045N

Education level	Grade scale	Subject	Subject group (SCB)
First cycle	U G VG	Statsvetenskap	Political Science

Main field of study

Political Science

Entry requirements

In order to meet the general entry requirements for first cycle studies you must have successfully completed upper secondary education and documented skills in English language

Selection

The selection is based on final school grades or Swedish Scholastic Aptitude Test.

Course Aim

The course Conditions of Environmental Policy: Social Science Perspectives on Climate- and Environmental Challenges deals with different social science perspectives on climate and environmental problems, their origin and possible solutions, as well as the structures, actors and processes that characterize environmental policy. Throughout the course, a number of generic skills are also covered, which are put into practical application during the course. Particular emphasis is placed on the ability to independently search for, evaluate and critically examine knowledge, as well as the ability to present and communicate this knowledge in a structured way.

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and comprehension:

- a) Describe and explain what characterizes an environmental problem.
- b) Describe different social science perspectives on climate and environmental problems, as well as how the understanding of environmental problems has changed over time.
- c) Describe and explain the main processes, actors and structures that make up the environmental policy system both in Sweden and on the international arena.

Skills and abilities:

- d) Reflect on and compare different theoretical perspectives on the emergence of climate- and environmental problems, including their possible solutions.
- e) Apply basic concepts and theories to analyze empirical problems related to environmental and climate policy.
- f) Participate actively and constructively in seminar discussions.
- g) Independently seek relevant knowledge in both printed and Internet-based sources.
- h) Independently produce text in accordance with good academic standards, including correct citation techniques and reference management
- i) Express oneself orally and in writing in good and comprehensible Swedish

Appraisal and approach:

- j) Evaluate, independently relate to and critically examine research results and theories formed in different perspectives on environmental and climate policy issues.

Contents

The course deals with basic theories and concepts from different social science perspectives on environmental and climate challenges, and focuses on the main components and actors of the environmental policy system. During the course, the following areas will be covered:

- Social science perspectives on the emergence of environmental problems and possible solutions
- Conceptual and political-practical development of environmental policy
- Actors in environmental policy
- The national environmental policy system in a comparative perspective
- Environmental policy instruments and steering
- International environmental policy
- Environmental policy in the EU

Realization

Each course occasion's language and form is stated and appear on the course page on Luleå University of Technology's website.

Teaching is given in the form of lectures, seminars, exercises individually and in groups as well as supervision. The purpose of the lectures is to introduce the students to the central themes, concepts and theories included in the course and to give examples of their empirical application. The seminars and exercises primarily aim to deepen the understanding of functions, processes and actors in the environmental policy system, as well as to apply relevant concepts and theories to empirical examples. Prior to the lectures, the student is also given the opportunity to complete quizzes (smaller tests) that deal with basic concepts and issues. The purpose of the quizzes is to stimulate reading of the literature and thereby prepare the student for the exam.

Some parts of the course may be given in English. The course is carried out with the help of a web-based learning platform (Canvas) and uses a mixture of on-line lessons, recorded lectures, teacher-led seminars, group work and self-study.

Examination

If there is a decision on special educational support, in accordance with the Guideline Student's rights and obligations at Luleå University of Technology, an adapted or alternative form of examination can be provided.

The course is examined through a written exam as well as oral and written presentations of, and seminar discussions about, exercises. The written exam examine the objectives of Describing and explaining what characterizes an environmental problem, Explaining different social science perspectives on climate and environmental problems, and how the understanding of environmental problems has changed over time, and Describing and explaining the main processes, actors and the structures that make up the environmental policy system both in Sweden and in the international arena. Through the exercises, the goals examined are to Reflect on and compare different theoretical perspectives on the emergence of possible climate and environmental problems and possible solutions, to apply basic concepts and theories to analyze empirical problems related to environmental and climate policy, to independently seek relevant knowledge in both print and Internet -based sources, as well as to Evaluate, independently relate to and critically examine research results and theories formed in different perspectives on environmental and climate policy issues. Written and oral presentations also examine the goals of independently developing text in accordance with good academic standards, including correct citation techniques and reference management, and of Expressing oneself orally and in writing in good and comprehensible Swedish.

All examinations form the basis for the final grade for the course. The written exam make up 40% of the course grade, and exercises the remaining 60%. The grading scale consists of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) and Pass with Distinction (VG).

Unauthorized aids during exams and assessments

If a student, by using unauthorized aids, tries to mislead during an exam or when a study performance is to be assessed, disciplinary measures may be taken. The term "unauthorized aids" refers to aids that the teacher has not previously specified as permissible aids and that may assist in solving the examination task. This means that all aids not specified as permissible are prohibited. The Swedish version has interpretative precedence in the event of a conflict.

Remarks

Students must register for the courses themselves, or contact ETKS educational administration, eduetks@ltu.se not later than three days after the quarter commences. Failure to do so can result in the place being lost. This rule also applies to students with a guaranteed place.

Distance education without compulsory physical meetings. Obligatory seminars are conducted on-line. Study guidance and course materials are distributed via the study platform Canvas. Access to a computer, good internet connection and basic computer skills are required, as well as access to a webcam and headset with a microphone.

Course offered by

Department of Social Sciences, Technology and Arts

Modules

Code	Description	Grade scale	Cr	Status	From period	Title
0001	Take-home examination	U G VG	6	Mandatory	S23	
0002	Obligatory assignments 1	U G VG	3	Mandatory	S23	
0003	Obligatory assignments 2	U G VG	3	Mandatory	S23	
0004	Obligatory assignments 3	U G VG	3	Mandatory	S23	

Study guidance

Study guidance for the course is to be found in our learning platform Canvas before the course starts. Students applying for single subject courses get more information in the Welcome letter. You will find the learning platform via My LTU.

Last revised

by Director of Undergraduate Studies Daniel Örtqvist, Department of Social Sciences, Technology and Arts 2022-02-11

Syllabus established

by Director of Undergraduate Studies Daniel Örtqvist, Department of Social Sciences, Technology and Arts 2022-02-11