

COURSE SYLLABUS

Critical Issues in Sustainability 1: Social Perspectives on Climate Change and the Environment, 7.5 credits

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Course Code: LCSR22	Education Cycle: Second-cycle level
Confirmed: May 06, 2026	Disciplinary domain: Social sciences
Valid From: Aug 31, 2026	Subject group: Other Subjects within Social Science
	Specialised in: A1N Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
	Main field of study: Global Studies

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- identify relevant sustainable development goals for environmental and climate change issues
- explain the role of global sustainability goals, policies and legislation in creating sustainable development in local settings
- explain how different sustainability strategies can be used to achieve global development goals for environmental and climate change issues, and to create social change
- demonstrate knowledge of current research and development work in social science research of environmental sustainability and climate change

Skills and Abilities

- apply social science theories and strategies for sustainability and social change related to environmental and climate change issues in the analysis of different cases in different parts of the world
- compare the possibilities and challenges for sustainable development and social change related to environmental and climate change issues in different situations and in different parts of the world

Judgement and Approach

- discuss ethical considerations in the research and development work within the fields of environmental sustainability and climate change
- critically discuss the impact of social and political factors in the analysis of environmental sustainability
- critically discuss how social science strategies can contribute to environmental sustainability and social change

Content

- Goals and strategies for sustainable development and social change
- Current research and development work
- Climate change
- Environmental issues
- Research ethics

Type of Instruction

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and exercises performed individually and in groups.

A learning management system is used.

Students who have been admitted to and registered for a course have the right to receive instruction/supervision for the duration of the time period specified for the particular course instance to which they were accepted. After that, the right to receive instruction/supervision expires.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

A bachelor's degree (i.e., the equivalent of 180 ECTS credits at an accredited university) with at least 90 credits in global studies or social science including independent work, i.e., a thesis or the equivalent. English proficiency is required.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

The grades A, B, C, D and E are all passing grades. For courses with more than one element of examination, students are given a final grade based on an overall assessment of all the elements included in the course.

The examination is based on the intended learning outcomes.

The course is examined through individual written assignment and a seminar. The individual written assignment is graded with A/B/C/D/E/FX or F. The seminar is only graded with U/G (Fail/Pass).

The examination must allow for students to be assessed on an individual basis. Further information concerning assessment of specific intended learning outcomes and grading criteria is provided at the beginning of the course.

To receive the final grade of the course, the individual written assignment and the seminar assignment must have been passed. The final grade of the course is determined by the grade given to the individual written assignment.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual written assignment	5.5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Seminar	2 credits	G/U

Course Evaluation

The instruction is followed up throughout the course. A course evaluation is conducted at the end of the course. A summary and comments are published in the learning management system. The evaluation constitutes a basis for future improvements to the course.

Other Information

Students are guaranteed a minimum of three attempts to pass an examination, including the regular attempt.

If a student has failed the same examination three times, the student can request that the next attempt be graded by a new examiner. The decision to accept or reject such a request is made by the associate dean of education. A student may not make a second attempt at any examination already passed in order to receive a higher grade.

In case a course is terminated or significantly altered, examination according to the earlier syllabus shall be offered on at least two occasions in the course of one year after the termination/alteration.

The examiner has the right to give an adapted examination or let the student carry out the examination in an alternative way provided that the intended learning outcomes can be secured and that there are exceptional reasons for this, including the student's right to targeted study support.

Course Literature

Please note that the course literature may be revised up to eight weeks before the start of the course.

The course literature consists of 15-20 electronic articles which are available on the learning platform before the start of the course.

Please note that changes may be made to the reading list up until eight weeks before the start of the course.

Reference literature

Citing Sources – How to Create Literature References

<https://ju.se/library/academic-language/reference-management.html>

The Interactive Anti-Plagiarism Guide – Jönköping University

Information about plagiarism at higher education institutions
Available in the learning management system