



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Climate

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 15 October 2009, and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2009 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: MVAE34

Sustainable Development from a Safety Perspective, 7.5 ECTS Credits
(Hållbar utveckling ur ett säkerhetsperspektiv, 7.5 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Master

Progression Level: E

Language of Instruction

Instruction is mainly in Swedish, but some parts of it and the course literature may be in another Scandinavian language and/or English.

Prerequisites

The course is a mandatory part of the Master program in Societal Risk Management (SARIS; dnr FAK3 2007/311). General requirements for Master programs applies for the program (a Bachelor's degree comprising at least 180 ECTS Credits or the equivalent).

The course is also open to non-program students. In these cases general admission requirements apply, in addition to upper secondary school level Swedish B/Swedish 2B and at least 5 years of work experience in a relevant field.

Major Field of Study

Societal Risk Management

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- understand how the three areas safety, health, and environment (SHE) interact and are interdependent
- understand how societal risk- and safety work is related to important principles in Sustainable Development
- analyze risks and safety work from ecological, social, and economic perspectives in a comprehensive manner
- reflect on the relationship between risk management and development work in industrialized and developing countries respectively.

Content and Form of Instruction

Instruction is done on distance through a web-based educational platform and in connection to two brief on-campus periods at the beginning and end of the course.

The course covers the topic of sustainable development in a risk- and safety perspective. Issues of societal safety work is problematized in its economic, ecological, and social dimensions. The concept development can be defined in many different ways but often implies progress, while a successful outcome of preventive risk management means preventing accidents and catastrophes.

The course also applies an international perspective and discusses the situation in the third world where the welfare of the individual and for countries is closely linked to risk- and safety aspects. Natural catastrophes and future effects of climate changes pose threats that severely impedes sustainable development. In the third world, risk management is often connected to fighting poverty and poor living conditions, and is an essential

component in the work for sustainable development.

The course covers the relationship between the three overlapping areas safety, health, and environment (SHE), such as the advantages of treating those three areas as being integrated, but also the potential conflicts that may arise between these areas in various types of organizations and activities. SHE is studied as a basis of leadership- and management systems.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Examination is in the form of hand-in assignments, participation in seminars, and a written project.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University, ref. C2007/368, stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

In order to pursue studies, access to a computer with internet access and adequate performance is required.

The course structure and work forms are partly based on the idea of problem-based learning and participatory pedagogics. Through independent information retrieval (literature studies and lectures) integrated with hand-in assignments and presentation of an individual study, the students are given the opportunity to practice critical evaluation and problem-solving.

Students of the SARIS programme will be invited to a round-up with course- and programme evaluation.