



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology
Environmental Science

Syllabus

Environment, Risk and Sustainable Development

Course Code:	MVG300
Course Title:	Environment, Risk and Sustainable Development <i>Miljö, risk och hållbar utveckling</i>
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

Major Field of Study:

MXA (Environmental Science)

RIM (Risk and Environmental Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2019-08-27, and is valid from the Spring semester 2020 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Registration on the courses Introduction to Environment and Safety (15 ECTS credits), The Natural Science Basis of Risk and Environmental Issues (15 ECTS credits), Societal Strategies for Environment and Safety (15 ECTS credits), and Environmental Risk Management (15 ECTS credits), with 50 ECTS credits completed, or equivalent.

Learning Outcomes

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

- assess the importance of knowledge regarding the environment, risks, and development work for sustainable development,
- give an account of the basics of current development theories with relevance to the fields of the

environment and risk,

- assess and evaluate current development theories with relevance to the fields of the environment and risk,
- critically review and discuss different visions of goals concerning development, the environment, and risks,
- identify and compare different themes and ideologies in the current debate on development, the environment, and risks,
- identify power and normative structures and their relevance to the interpretation of and actions in the fields of the environment, risk, and development,
- formulate a research problem and research questions with a focus on the environment, risk, and development issues,
- give an account of and assess text and document analysis,
- collect, process, and analyse material regarding the environment, risk, and development issues, using text and document analysis,
- independently produce a research study, including a summary in English,
- prepare and perform peer review of written work by other students, and defend their own work.

Content

The course comprises the following components:

- introduction to development theories of relevance to the risk and environmental fields
- treatment and discussion of values, world views, visions, research, interdisciplinary research, power, a critical approach to norms, and argumentation analysis, linked to the fields of development, risk, and the environment
- reviews of a number of current cases from different relevant perspectives
- introduction to text and document analysis
- an independent project (8 ECTS cr), presented and discussed in a final seminar

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars, group exercises, group supervision, and a final seminar on student projects. The independent project involves writing an academic text on research with a summary in English.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on mandatory exercises and seminars, reports, a take-home exam, and an independent written project.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to special pedagogical support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

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 evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.