



Faculty of Economic Sciences, Communication and IT  
Economics

## Syllabus

### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Economic Sciences, Communication and IT on 14 December 2010, and is valid from the Spring semester of 2012 at Karlstad University.

**Course Code:** NEGB20

**Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, 7.5 ECTS Credits**

**(Miljö- och naturresursekonomi, 7.5 Swedish credit points)**

**Degree Level:** Bachelor

**Progressive Specialisation:** G1F (First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements)

### Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is English if non-Swedish speaking students or teachers participate in the course. If not, instruction is in Swedish.

### Prerequisites

Economics 30 ECTS Credits.

### Major Field of Study

NAA (Economics)

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

- outline the theories of the basics of price formation in a market economy,
- give an account of situations when market pricing results in effective allocation of national resources and when markets 'fail' in this respect, e.g. due to so called external effects of a market activity,
- demonstrate understanding of factors decisive for the market pricing of non-renewable natural resources, and what an effective allocation of such resources entails,
- demonstrate understanding of environmental economic issues and the role of the state to correct market failure,
- assess various methods for solving environmental economic problems from a cost-effective perspective and
- estimate the advantages and costs of different measures to reduce environmental problems and evaluate their socioeconomic profitability.

### Content and Form of Instruction

The course starts with a repetition of elementary market pricing with an emphasis on private goods and a survey of methods for assessing utility articles without market prices.

The next component deals with how to economize with non-renewable resources, on the one hand, and renewable resources such as forest and fish, on the other. Causes of ineffectiveness in economizing with resources via the market system and measures to solve such problems are discussed. The concept of sustainable development is discussed and compared to the result of pure market economisation.

This is followed by discussions on pure environmental economic problems (or problems with detrimental external effects). The role of the state in correcting such problems and available means of control are treated. The various means are analysed in terms of advantages and disadvantages from a cost-effective perspective. Swedish environmental political means are analysed and evaluated. The course concludes with seminars in which students present their own analyses of environmental economic problems and how best (cost-effective) to solve them.

#### Reading List

See separate document.

#### Examination

Examination is in the form of a written exam, hand-in assignments and a written and orally presented seminar assignment.

#### Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) 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 stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

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