



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology
Risk Management

Syllabus

Natural Disaster Management 1

Course Code: RHAD21

Course Title: Natural Disaster Management 1
Hantering av naturkatastrofer 1

Credits: 7.5

Degree Level: Master's level

Progressive Specialisation: Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
RHA (Risk Management)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2017-03-15, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2017 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Completed courses of at least 120 ECTS credits. Upper secondary level Swedish 3 or B and English 6 or A, or equivalent.

Learning Outcomes

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

- discuss what creates vulnerabilities for individuals and communities and relate this to different types of severe natural hazards,
- give an account of differences in risk situations in various parts of the world, and explain the differences with the help of underlying factors,
- discuss the importance of learning from incidents and accidents to promote proactive risk management,
- plan and conduct a case study and present it orally and in writing.

Content

The course has a focus on the risks occasioned by extreme conditions of air, land and water. The Pressure and Release (PAR) model is used to describe vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards in an international perspective. The link between risk, hazard and risk reduction efforts are studied from different perspectives, from underlying factors caused by political systems and economic prosperity to unstable situations at the local level.

Students carry out a detailed risk study of a natural disaster (rather unnatural in this respect), comprising a) societal preparedness for and preventive efforts before, during and after a disastrous event, b) prognosis and early warning systems, c) direct and indirect effects, and d) the link to extreme climate variables or geological factors.

The course is in the form of distance education with web-based platform and two campus meetings. Students must have access to an internet-connected computer with the performance requirements specified by the university IT support to students. The course involves problem-based and flexible learning approaches. The first on-campus meeting includes discussion exercises aiming to identify students' pre-understanding.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on written hand-in assignments, individually and in groups, and the final on-campus review and defence of the assignments in groups and seminars. Campus meetings are mandatory.

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 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.

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