



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Environmental Science

Syllabus

Environmental risk management

Course Code:	RHG220
Course Title:	Environmental risk management <i>Hantering av komplexa miljörisker</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)
RHA (Risk Management)
RIM (Risk and Environmental Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2020-09-09, and is valid from the Spring semester 2021 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Registered for 30 ECTS credits in Environmental Science or Risk and Environmental Studies, with 20 ECTS credits completed, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

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

1. describe and explain how current environmental risks are handled at the municipal level and related to the national and international levels,
2. describe and explain the spread of pollutants in soil, air, and water, and how they affect ecosystems and organisms,
3. formulate answers to current interdisciplinary research questions related to environmental

and safety issues,

4. explain and discuss complex causal relations and uncertainties related to environmental and safety issues,

5. explain and discuss strategies for handling environmental risks in relation to given societal goals,

6. critically reflect upon a current environmental risk from different stakeholder and disciplinary perspectives,

7. present research results orally and in writing, defend their own project, and perform a constructive critical review of the projects of others, and

8. describe group processes and reflect upon ways in which they affect results and collaboration in teams.

Content

The aim of the course is for students to acquire in-depth knowledge in the natural and social sciences and apply this knowledge to produce a comprehensive survey of current environmental risks, from causes to measures and strategies. Students have the opportunity to work with authentic tasks and to practise working on a project from problem formulation to a completed report.

The course comprises the following components:

- in-depth study of causal relations of current environmental risks based on the natural and social sciences,
- in-depth study of societal strategies for managing complex environmental risks,
- a method for addressing current research issues in the field, and
- introduction to working professionally in teams.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, and supervised group work. The course includes excursions which provide an overview and current examples of causal relations as well as the management of environmental risks.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-6 are assessed on the basis of an individual written take-home exam, written hand-in assignments, and oral presentations completed individually and in groups.

Learning outcomes 2-6 are also assessed on the basis of excursions.

Learning outcomes 7-8 are assessed on the basis of oral and written presentations completed individually and in groups.

All seminars and excursions are mandatory.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study 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 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.

Students pay for board, lodging, and travel for off-campus excursions, if applicable.

Required course for the Environment and Safety Bachelor programme.