



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Environmental Science

## Syllabus

### History, environment and risk: Historical crises as sources of knowledge for sustainable development

**Course Code:** RMA711

**Course Title:** History, environment and risk: Historical crises as sources of knowledge for sustainable development  
*Historia, miljö och risk: Historiska kriser som kunskapsresurs för hållbar utveckling*

**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:**

HIA (History)

RIM (Risk and Environmental Studies)

**Course Approval**

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2023-02-20, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2023 at Karlstad University.

**Prerequisites**

A first-cycle qualification of at least 180 ECTS credits, and upper secondary level English 6, or equivalent

**Learning Outcomes**

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

1. give an account of, critically reflect upon, and problematise how environmental and health-related risks and crises have affected societies in the past,
2. give an account of, critically reflect upon, and problematise how environmental and

health-related risks and crises have been handled throughout history,

3. at an advanced level, demonstrate how knowledge of historical risks and crises can be used to overcome current challenges to sustainable development,
4. give an account of, critically reflect upon, and apply methods of historical knowledge acquisition in relation to risks and crises, and
5. demonstrate the ability to process the course content critically, independently, and systematically.

### **Content**

This interdisciplinary course provides a broad overview of environmental and health-related risks and crises in history from ancient times until the 20th century: how they have affected different groups of people, how they have been handled, and how this knowledge can be used to address current challenges and reach the UN global goals for sustainable development. The geographical focus is northern Europe, with global examples. The course also covers methods for historical knowledge acquisition. Instruction is in the form of lectures, mandatory seminars, and a written hand-in assignment.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Learning outcomes 1-4 are assessed based on seminar exercises and an individual written hand-in assignment.

Learning outcome 5 is assessed based on an individual written hand-in assignment.

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.