



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology  
Environmental Science

## Syllabus

### Method and theory in Risk and Environmental Studies

<b>Course Code:</b>	RMG601
<b>Course Title:</b>	Method and theory in Risk and Environmental Studies <i>Metod och teori i risk- och miljöstudier</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	15
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Undergraduate level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G2F)

**Major Field of Study:**  
RIM (Risk and Environmental Studies)

#### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2018-08-28, and is valid from the Spring semester 2019 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

Introduction to Environment and Safety, 15 ECTS cr, Natural Science Basis of Risk and Environmental Issues, 15 ECTS cr, Environment and Safety Strategies, 15 ECTS cr, Environmental Risk Management, 15 ECTS cr, and Environment, Risk and Sustainable Development, 15 ECTS cr, or equivalent.

#### Learning Outcomes

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

- give an account of and use central concepts and theories in the field of risk management,
- identify, formulate and assess a research problem,
- give an account of central methodological, epistemological and ontological issues, including concepts and perspectives,
- plan and produce a research design, and justify and argue for the choice of methods,
- use chosen qualitative or quantitative research methods of relevance to risk management studies,
- critically review and assess research studies and other types of texts,
- assess the importance of ethical approaches and gender and diversity perspectives in collecting and analysing data,
- explain and discuss the importance of multi- interdisciplinarity in risk management.

#### Content

Students acquire in-depth understanding of and ability to manage environmental risks in a societal context. The theoretical and methodological foundations of the field of risk and environmental studies are outlined in an historical perspective. The basics of qualitative and quantitative data collection are treated in theory and practice. Emphasis is put on research problematisation, methods and analysis, and students practise combining theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches. Students

develop skills in independent research procedures in preparation for the final degree project and learn how to produce a research design.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars and various forms of applications.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Assessment is based on individual hand-in assignments, some of which include oral seminar presentations.

### **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.