



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Environmental Science

Syllabus

Method and theory in Risk and Environmental Studies

Course Code:	RMG601
Course Title:	Method and theory in Risk and Environmental Studies <i>Metod och teori i risk- och miljöstudier</i>
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	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 Arts and Social Sciences 2020-08-24, and is valid from the Spring semester 2021 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

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

Learning Outcomes

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

1. give an account of and use central concepts and theories in the field of risk and environmental studies,
2. evaluate theories in the field of risk and environmental studies in terms of gender and diversity perspectives,

3. identify and critically discuss different methodological issues,
4. give an account of and assess a selection of methods for qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis,
5. assess the significance of ethical approaches and gender and diversity perspectives in relation to data collection and analysis,
6. present and discuss multi- and cross-disciplinary perspectives in risk and environmental studies,
7. reflect upon research ethics of relevance for risk and environmental studies,
8. identify, formulate, and evaluate a scientific research problem, and
9. plan and produce a research design, including theories and methods, and justify and argue for the choice of methods.

Content

The course comprises the following:

- The basics of central theories, methods, concepts, and perspectives of relevance for risk and environment studies
- Work with research questions
- The basics of qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis
- Practical exercises in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis
- The basics of source criticism
- Introduction to research ethics

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars, and different types of exercises and applications.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9 are assessed on the basis of individual written take-home exams.

Learning outcome 1 is also assessed on the basis of oral and written group presentations.

Learning outcome 4 is also assessed on the basis of oral and written individual and group presentations.

Learning outcomes 6 and 7 are assessed on the basis of oral and written individual and group presentations. Submissions for assessment must clearly indicate individual contributions.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to special pedagogical 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.

