



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Tourism Studies

Syllabus

Tourism and societal crises

Course Code:	TVGP52
Course Title:	Tourism and societal crises <i>Turism och samhällskriser</i>
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements (G1N)

Major Field of Study:
KGA (Human Geography)
TRU (Tourism Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2026-02-03, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2026 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

1. identify and describe different types of societal crises and explain their connection to and significance for the tourism industry,
2. give an account of the concept resilience and its significance from the perspective of tourism science,
3. give an account of the significance of tourism in relation to both acute and long-term strategies applied to handle and mitigate the effects of societal crises,

Competence and skills

4. collect and analyse empirical data to investigate the role of tourism in crisis management and post-crisis recovery,

Judgement and approach

5. reflect critically on the perspectives of different actors in relation to societal crises, and
6. assess tourism critically as an integrated social phenomenon in relation to societal crises.

Content

The course treats tourism as a system and the hospitality industry in relation to various societal crises, providing an understanding of how tourism affects and is affected by crises, but also the role of tourism in society during and after a crisis. Different types of societal crises are covered, such as natural disasters, accidents related to human activity, economic crises, terrorism and war, epidemics and pandemics, and climate-related crises, in terms of their influence on and significance for tourism.

The concept resilience is introduced as a theoretical apparatus in relation to tourism and societal crises from the perspectives of individuals, organisations, and destinations. Students study models for crisis management and crisis communication, how planning and long-term strategies can prevent future crises and promote sustainable tourism in a rapidly changing world, and the crisis-related behaviour and actions of specific actors such as tourists and private and public parties. There is an emphasis on the question of how crisis management and crisis communication can be

organised to include tourists and tourism.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars, workshops, and projects.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-3 are assessed based on an individual written take-home exam.

Learning outcomes 4-5 are assessed based on a group assignment that is presented both orally and in writing. For the sake of assessment, the material must allow for individual achievements to be distinguishable from one another.

Learning outcome 6 is assessed based on active participation in seminars.

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 Pass with 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.

The course is part of the study programme in Tourism and Place Design (SGTPD), semester 5.