



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

SFGS341 Environmental Governance and Transitions to Sustainability, 7.5 credits

Miljöstyrning och hållbar omställning, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Confirmation

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Global Studies on 2018-12-18, and is valid from Autumn semester 2018.

Responsible Department

School of Global Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences

Entry requirements

In order to be eligible for the course the applicant must fulfil the general entry requirements for postgraduate studies.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, the third-cycle student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- account for recent developments and debates on environmental governance in relation to the potential for change and transitions to sustainability;
- identify the assumptions upon which the different approaches to environmental governance and sustainability transitions are based;

Competence and skills

- distinguish between and appraise different methodologies used to study environmental governance;
- apply theoretical and methodological insights related to environmental governance to specific examples;

Judgement and approach

- evaluate the implications of choosing and using different governance theories and methods.

Sustainability labelling

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of University of Gothenburg's stipulated criteria for sustainability labelling.

Course content

The course's focus is on recent developments in research on environmental governance. The course takes account of current debates on governance and raises critical questions on the potential of theories and methods on governance to address sustainability objectives e.g. on climate and other environmental issues.

The course elaborates on how the literature views the role of governance in facilitating change and transition toward sustainability. It asks how such theories envision society's potential to organize its relations to the environment and natural resources in a manner that is sustainable. The course literature takes stock of different arrangements for societal steering with particular attention to the challenges of diverse contexts, of different governance levels, of the possibility of scaling up and transferring successful solutions. The course is organized through the following themes:

- Transitions, change and pathways to sustainability
- Multiple scales/levels of environmental governance
- The role of the state and government in environmental governance
- Power and environmental governance
- Knowledge, expertise and science for sustainability governance
- Experimentation, adaptation and collaboration in the governance of transitions
- Governance and social sustainability

Types of instruction

The course is taught through seminars and individual work. If there are too few participants to conduct a seminar a reading alternative will be offered to the students.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English.

Grades

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

Types of assessment

Assessment is based on assignments on readings and written examinations in the form of short papers.

Course evaluation

The course concludes with a written and oral course evaluation.