



## SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

### **SFGS393, Transdisciplinary methods for research and societal transformation , 5 credits**

Transdisciplinära metoder för forskning och samhällsomvandling, 5 högskolepoäng

*Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå*

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#### **Confirmation**

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Global Studies on 2024-07-02, and is valid from Autumn semester 2024.

#### ***Responsible Department***

School of Global Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences

#### **Entry requirements**

In order to be eligible for the course the applicant must be registered in a PhD program.

#### **Learning outcomes**

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

##### ***Knowledge and understanding***

- Understand different types of knowledge use and needs in relation to a transdisciplinary process;
- Describe methods in, and steps and stages of a transdisciplinary knowledge co-production process.

##### ***Competence and skills***

- Design and plan a transdisciplinary research process in collaboration with involved practitioners;
- Choose and use research and subject specific methods and approaches in relation to transdisciplinary research.

##### ***Judgement and approach***

- Analyze different results in relation to the interests of different actors;
- Reflect upon one's own role in a transdisciplinary process dealing with complex societal issues;
- Reflect upon the role of methods and process design in projects that attempt to contribute to solving complex societal issues.

The course is sustainability-focused, which means that at least one of the course's learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's stipulated criteria for sustainability labelling. Content of this kind also constitutes the course's main focus.

## Course content

Collaboration, participatory and interactive methods are central to dealing with complex societal issues, so called wicked problems. Such methods cover many different types of collaboration and participatory processes. This course will focus on transdisciplinary and design approaches, that integrate both research and practice-based knowledge types and needs into the research process. While interdisciplinary approaches include integration between different disciplines, transdisciplinary approaches in addition also transcend the boundaries of the university to include knowledge and expertise from different actors and stakeholders involved in societal issues in practice, in so-called knowledge co-production processes. This course focuses on relevant theories on transdisciplinary and design method choice and use through a review of, and hands-on explorations into, state-of-the-art methods and approaches for such collaborative research. It will also discuss the conditions for and consequences of applying different participatory methods and their relationship to disciplinary research. The course invites doctoral students with diverse disciplinary and subject area backgrounds to joint learning, by discussing and reflecting on different phases and dimensions of collaborative methods in research.

## Types of instruction

The teaching methods of the course consist of lectures, literature seminars, as well as group and independent work.

### *Language of instruction*

The course is given in Swedish, in English or in another language

The course is given in Swedish and English and the literature will be in both Swedish and English. International guest lectures and related workshops will be in English. In the event that any doctoral student cannot follow teaching in Swedish, English will be the spoken language in the room.

## Grades

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

## Types of assessment

To pass this course the student must:

- Complete and submit all written individual tasks including an oral presentation;
- Active participation in group work, including written documentation and oral presentations, on the course literature.

## Course evaluation

The course ends with an oral course evaluation and a written evaluation in Canvas.

## Other information

The course schedule, literature and literature list will be available via Canvas at least two weeks before the start of the course.