



MESS50, Deciphering Landscape: Understanding the Social and Ecological Dimensions from Multiple Perspectives, 7.5 credits

Perspektiv på landskapsförändring: att integrera samhällliga och ekologiska dimensioner, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies on 2015-01-13 to be valid from 2015-08-30, autumn semester 2015.

General Information

The course constitutes a 3rd term elective (non-compulsory) course at LUMES, Lund University Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate understanding of the historical development of and understanding of the landscape concept from various paradigmatic positions
- demonstrate understanding of the multiple fields that are implicated in the study of landscapes
- demonstrate understanding of where and how the fields of sustainability science and landscape studies can be integrated

Competence and skills

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate ability to utilize both quantitative and qualitative data to analyze past, present and possible future landscapes
- demonstrate ability to conceptualize the processes (e.g. drivers) of change in particular landscapes at different historical periods
- demonstrate ability to orally and in writing formulate, present and discuss own conclusions, as well as the underlying assumptions and arguments, concerning particular case-study landscapes

Judgement and approach

For a passing grade the student shall

- demonstrate ability to reflect on scientific, societal and ethical issues concerning ideas of justice, fairness and sustainability in the creation and maintenance of landscape

Course content

The course provides an interdisciplinary perspective on landscape studies. By integrating different fields' understanding of the landscape concept, the course offers a complex understanding of the historical and contemporary connections between landscape, human activity and sustainability.

By integrating landscape studies and sustainability science the course problematizes the landscape concept. For example, the course examines different processes of landscape development, issues of path dependence in local and regional development, and landscapes role in social justice and sustainability. The course problematizes constraints and possibilities for desirable landscapes trajectories

The course offers training in the following skills:

- archival research and historical data resources
- remote sensing and cartographic analysis
- critical in situ observation
- practice in written and oral presentations and data visualization

Course design

The course consists of lectures, seminars, field trips, group-based project work and reports, and individual assignments. Seminars and field trips are compulsory unless there are specific circumstances. Obligatory seminars and field trips provide an opportunity to work on assignments and to discuss the course literature and other material provided.

An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control; e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed classes because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The course is examined by a group project and one individual assignment.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus. A student who has taken two examinations in a course or a part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Students getting a passing grade cannot re-take an exam or re-submit a paper to get a higher grade.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five.

The highest grade for the course as a whole is 5 and the lowest passing grade is 3. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to learning outcomes of the course. The grade 5 denotes outstanding performance in all learning outcomes. The grade 4 signifies very good performance in all learning outcomes. To receive the grade 3, the student must obtain minimum criteria in fulfilling all course learning objectives. The grade of Fail signifies that the student has not fulfilled the learning outcomes of the course, or that additional work is required before the grade can be awarded.

At the beginning of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes of the course and about the grading scale.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have fulfilled course requirements of at least forty higher education credits in the LUMES, Lund University International Master's Programme in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science (120 credits).

Further information

The course was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on February 5, 2015.

Subcourses in MESS50, Deciphering Landscape: Understanding the Social and Ecological Dimensions from Multiple Perspectives

Applies from H15

1501 Deciphering Landscape, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Three, Four, Five