



LUND UNIVERSITY  
Faculty of Science

## SYLLABUS

Date  
22 October 2019

Reg. No.  
U 2019/462

### **Syllabus for the course Environmental challenges and the role of environmental science: past and present, NMV003F** *Swedish title: Miljöutmaningar och miljövetenskapens roll: aktuella och historiska perspektiv*

The course syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty board for graduate studies 22 October 2019. The course is in the third cycle and amounts to 3 credits.

*The course syllabus is formally approved in Swedish. This is a translation.*

#### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, participants shall be able to:

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

- Describe important events which have had great importance for the development of environmental science awareness and the scientific field.
- Define what environmental science is and understand how an interdisciplinary approach is necessary to solve questions concerning environmental problems.

##### *Skills and abilities*

- Assemble and synthetically present a case study on the basis of scientific articles and other material.

##### *Judgement and approach*

- Explain the role of science, as well as its limitations, in driving societal change.

#### **Course content**

The course provides the participants with a solid background on major environmental issues, associated ethical conflicts and their framing in science, policy and wider society. The participants will both be introduced to the classical issues that have contributed to the birth of environmental sciences (e.g. Silent Spring), as well as major case studies from the recent past and present (e.g. the pesticide treadmill, GMOs, climate change, food security). Particular attention will be given to the role of science in the environmental debate, including the institutionalization of science-policy interface (e.g. IPCC, IPBES), and its limitations.

#### **Teaching**

The examiner and the students meet once weekly for 10 weeks to have deeper discussions of the case studies. It is mandatory to have read the literature to prepare for the meetings.

#### **Assessment**

Assessment is based on attendance and on an oral case study presentation.

**Grading scale**

Possible grades are Pass and Fail. To pass the course the student must attend at least 80% of the scheduled activities and pass the case study presentation.

**Language of instruction**

The course is given in English if at least one participant is does not speak Swedish. Otherwise, the course is given in Swedish or English.

**Entry requirements**

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**Additional information**

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