AG2171 Futures Studies and Forecasts 7.5 credits

Futures Studies and Forecasts

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

Establishment

Course syllabus for AG2171 valid from Autumn 2010

Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

The Built Environment

Specific prerequisites

A Bachelor's degree in architecture or landscape architecture, civil engineering in the built environment or equivalent, urban and regional planning or social sciences including courses corresponding to a minimum of 30 ECTS credits in the field of urban, transport or regional planning and economics, geoinformatics or environmental sciences. In addition ** documented proficiency in English B or equivalent (TOEFL, IELTS e g).

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

In this course, the students are trained to become users of futures studies in planning. They will not become experts in performing specific scenario studies, but they will get a broad knowledge on which methods are at hand. Thus, after the course, the students should have acquired a basic understanding of some fundamental methods of long-term planning.

More specifically the aims of the course are that the students should

- be able to explain the differences between various scenario approaches
- be able to use their knowledge regarding various types of scenario methods to critically analyse the use of scenario methods in various existing studies
- be able to point out risks and benefits with the methods presented in the course
- be able to choose a suitable scenario method for a specific problem
- have acquired a basic knowledge regarding existing techniques for scenario generation and be able to explain benefits and weaknesses with those techniques.
- be able to use their new skills both in writing and orally.

Course contents

The course Futures studies and Forecasts spans a wide array of issues, all of them relevant for planners' comprehension of the future. In the course, focus is on the understanding of some basic concepts in futures studies, such as scenarios, uncertainty and risk, and on how to deal with those.

The course will touch upon issues of quite different character – such as population forecasting, regional plans and other long-term issues.

The course works as a magnet for various such developments and places them in a common setting in order to help the student find methods to keep a long-term perspective on planning.

Course literature

The readings required for the course is a collection of articles, reports and excerpts from books. It consists of both texts on methods and of reports from projects relevant for the course contents. The required readings are collected in a special course binder, sold at the beginning of the course.

Examination

- LIT1 - Literature Assignments, 4.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- LAB1 - Laboratory Work, 3.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years.

Other requirements for final grade

It is required to complete exercises involving different combinations of qualitative and quantitative analysis (LAB1; 3 cr) and to fulfil a literature assignment (LIT1; 4,5 cr). Both those excercises must be performed within a specified time period

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.