



# AK1214 Environment and Society in a Changing Arctic 10.0 credits

Miljö och samhälle i ett föränderligt arktis

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

## Establishment

The course syllabus is valid from Spring term 2013

## Grading scale

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

## Education cycle

First cycle

## Main field of study

Technology

## Specific prerequisites

Basic eligibility and 120 credits or the equivalent in one or more of the following disciplines: engineering, science, architecture, history, environmental history, history of ideas, economic history, political science, anthropology, sociology, ethnology, literature, archeology and cultural geography. Exceptions can be made for Swedish if the course is taught entirely in English.

If there are more eligible applicants than places a selection is carried out based on a merit rating. Calculation of merits is based on the following criteria: 1) Education Background, where the breadth of the subjects studied is particularly meritorious, 2)grades, 3)motivation letter and 4)academic credits.

## Language of instruction

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

## Intended learning outcomes

After the course, the student will be able to:

1. Recount major climatic and environmental changes in the Arctic, with a focus on the last 15.000 years
2. Interpret climate change within the specific cultural and historical context of the Nordic region
3. Describe and explain the main processes of societal change in the Nordic / European Arctic: Settlements and colonization, Development of scientific research, and Development of natural resource utilization industry and tourism.
4. Discuss the main changes in international politics and economics in the Arctic and its relation to scientific research, military strategies and indigenous peoples
5. Conduct basic field research through documentation of natural phenomena, cultural remains or by interviews
6. Perform simple research tasks by using and combining different types of sources (i.e. those mentioned under point 5) and present it in written and oral form
7. Critically analyze current events in the Arctic, in relation to the course contents.

## Course contents

AK1214 is a two-week summer course for students from KTH and California State University, Fullerton. The course consists of two main components: classroom lectures at KTH Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm; and field-based learning in Svalbard, Norway.

The aim of this course is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the contemporary and long- term processes of environmental, political, economic and social change that are transforming the Arctic.

Through a combination of theoretical instruction and practical field studies, participants will have the opportunity to analyze and discuss the challenges and opportunities in the region.

## Examination

- INL1 - Essay, 10.0 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.

Examination: 1) active participation in discussions on the course literature and essays during the seminars and 2) writing and presenting the above mentioned essay.

## Other requirements for final grade

Examination: 1) active participation in discussions on the course literature, field work results and essays during the seminars and 2) writing and presenting a final essay.

## 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.