



AK121V The Climate Crisis as a Societal Problem 7.5 credits

Klimatkrisen som samhällsproblem

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

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for AK121V valid from Autumn 2021

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

First cycle

Main field of study

Technology

Specific prerequisites

Completed upper secondary education including documented proficiency in English.

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

After passing the course, the student should be able to:

- give an account of the basics of climate history with regard to scientific discoveries and their reception
- give an account of efforts to stop the climate changes through international organisations, cooperation and agreements
- give an account of the resistance against the climate issue and analyse its political, economic and ideological context
- discuss and analyse contemporary climate discourse and give an account of a number of central goal conflicts
- in order to understand and handle the climate issue from an interdisciplinary perspective that includes several disciplinary research domains i.e. natural sciences, humanities and social sciences.

Course contents

The climate issue is the largest challenge of our time. It has few counterparts in human history and those that do exist have been very different, above all because they have been relatively specific, like pest or nuclear war. The climate issue is instead closely interlinked with post-war societal developments. As a matter of fact, it is a result of our fossil-fuelled prosperity and therefore challenges our life-style. The climate issue is therefore not only a challenge in scientific and technical terms but now above all a challenge for our societies, nations, companies and individuals.

In this course, we give an introduction to current and interdisciplinary research about climate change. We touch upon questions concerning the emergence of climate science. What we know and how we know it and how long we have known it are examples of questions that are discussed and answered. Which institutions have been created to try to counteract global climate change and how have they worked is another field we look at. We also discuss how knowledge about climate change has been received in society, how scientists have worked to communicate their knowledge and how it has succeeded and failed. Despite the fact that the knowledge today is broad and deep there is a resistance that does not seem to give in; we also dig into these issues that concern ideological patterns or what we today call cultural cognition. We also take an history of ideas perspective on the climate issue, particularly in relation to the view on resource exploitation and technical development.

Examination

- INL1 - Assignment work, 7.5 credits, grading scale: P, 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.

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.