



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

# SLUkurs

## Syllabus

**PNG0013 Knowing systems and the environment, 2.0 credits**

## Syllabus approved

2007-09-18

## Subjects

Other Social Science

## Education cycle

Third cycle

## Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

## Language

English

## Prior knowledge

Registered Ph D student.

## Objective, including learning outcomes

In this PhD short course, participants will have the opportunity to explore the cognitive and ethical characteristics of “a systems view” of sustainability in both theory and in practice. Distinctions will be made between three essential ‘schools

of systemics’ – the ‘hard’, the ‘soft’ and the ‘developmental’ – and particular emphasis will be placed on the nexus between systemic development and sustainable development.

On completion of this course, participants should have a good knowledge of the current thinking and concepts in the field of ‘systems science’, and its relevance to the global discourse on sustainable development. They will be able to apply these concepts in their systemic practice, both in terms of their own PhD research area and in connection to other work in several fields. The course is relevant to researchers in agriculture, rural and regional development, and environmental studies and planning.

### **Content**

The course will consist of pre-course reading of six articles, followed by participation in an intensive 3-day workshop. The workshop will be made up of lectures and formal presentation by course leaders, critical conversations and group work by participants and participation in a series of experiential exercises.

At the end of the workshop, participants will be requested to submit an individual reflective essay consisting of their critique of the concepts discussed in the course and their relevance to own research

### **Requirements for examination**

Active participation during the intensive three days workshop, and presentation of an individual essay based recommended readings and content of the workshop – one week full time load (2 ECTS)

### **Additional information**

Lectures and workshop are to be held on October 29-31, 2007 at the department of Urban and Rural Development, Ultuna. Readings from the 24th of October. Course finishes at November 2nd.

### **Responsible department**

Department of Urban and Rural Development