



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

# SLUkurs

## Syllabus

**PNS0052 Topics in Environmental Economics, 15.0 credits**

## Syllabus approved

2009-10-30

## Subjects

Economy

## 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

B.Sc or M.Sc in economics. In addition at least 30 ECTS-equivalent in economics on the Ph D level are required.

## Objective, including learning outcomes

The objective of the course is to give a deeper knowledge in environmental economics. This is done by in-depth studies of some selected topics, with applications in

environmental economics.

The course is mainly about understanding the subject matter, but it is also important that the students learn how to extract what essential in the literature, and how to present it in an efficient way. Therefore, the students will present articles (and get feedback on their presentations) and also write summaries of articles.

With successful completion of this course, students will have

- advanced knowledge of the possibilities and limitations of a market economy when it comes to the solution of environmental problems and the management of natural resources
- a high ability to describe various ways to balance environmental goals against other welfare objectives
- a good understanding of the concept of cost efficiency
- a high ability to judge about the usefulness and applicability of various environmental policy instruments in different situations
- a high ability to explain different methods for valuation of the environment
- a high ability to explain the possibilities of voluntary solutions to e.g. international environmental problems

## **Content**

The course contains the following sections:

- Political Economics
- Fiscal Federalism
- Policy Instruments
- Technological Change
- Environmental Policy and Strategic Behavior
- Valuation Methods

Each section will start by a lecture by the responsible teacher, where he/she introduces the area. In most cases, this will involve some presentation of the teacher's own work. After that the students present selected articles, and write summaries of articles, book chapters or working papers.

After the section with the topics listed below, there will be a section about the applications of the methods to areas such as biodiversity, climate, water and agriculture. This will be combined with the term paper. Note that the term paper does not only mean individual work; there are seminars in which all participants

together discuss the various applications.

#### Structure

Lectures approx 30 hrs

Presentations of papers approx 15 hrs

Project work in group approx 45 hrs

Tutorials approx 15 hrs

Term paper approx 125 hrs

Term paper seminars approx 10 hrs

Literature studies approx 165 hrs

Total approx 405 hrs

#### **Requirements for examination**

Successful presentations and summaries. Active participations in the seminars.

Successful term paper.

#### **Additional information**

#### **Responsible department**

Department of Economics