



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PFS0075 Forests in a changing World - integrating values, interests and trade-offs, 7.5 credits

Syllabus approved

2011-03-25

Subjects

Forest Management/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

Students must be enrolled as PhD student in a forest-related subject. Students with backgrounds in natural as well as social science, humanities and arts are encouraged to apply. We will limit the number of participants to 20.

Objective, including learning outcomes

The aim of this course is to introduce students to problem-focused interdisciplinary research in a forest management context. The course will have a strong focus on global drivers of change as well as research tools required to meet future land management challenges, all while maintaining a strong link to a local and Nordic perspective. Upon completion of this course, the students will:

- be familiar with the dominant processes and key drivers shaping forests from ecological, social and economic perspectives.
- be able to identify relevant actors in a forest management context and to understand the range of values and alternative meanings that are ascribed to forests by different users and stakeholders.
- have a basic knowledge of approaches used to understand and/or resolve forest management challenges related to conflicts and trade-offs between different management objectives and actors with competing interests
- have a basic understanding of different interdisciplinary research approaches, as well as be able to recognise situations when an interdisciplinary research approach may be appropriate.

Content

The course will include a required literature study component, a residential field course in Jokkmokk, Northern Sweden (September 12-16), an individual written assignment, and a course symposium where students will present their research papers to the group. During the field course, lectures and group exercises will be combined with excursions and stakeholder meetings exposing students to a multitude of actors, interests, and management perspectives. This will begin with a brief introduction to different scientific approaches, and the nature of interdisciplinary research. In addition, a number of theoretical issues that are central to future land management will be introduced by Future Forests scientists and additional experts in the field. Methods to assess and make trade-offs between alternative values and interests will be explored in an interdisciplinary context that emphasise both natural and social science perspectives. Processes shaping future forest use will be discussed and the challenges involved in future studies will be explored. An individual written assignment grounded in the students' own area of research will be defined during the field course and presented at a final course symposium in Umeå (October 15). Course participants will act as opponents on each other's assignments and will receive instructors' comments on their own texts.

Introductory reading: 7 days

Field course attendance: 5 days

Individual writing: 10 days

Participation in final course symposium: 1 day

Requirements for examination

1. Approved oral presentation of group work during the field course.
2. Approved individual paper in which the student demonstrates that they are able to apply the course concepts within their own individual areas of expertise. The paper is to be delivered and presented orally at a final symposium in Umeå.

Additional information

Faculty of Forest Sciences. Application including a short presentation of graduate project and research interests to Ieva Eriksson (ieva.eriksson@slu.se) no later than June 20. Contact Karin Beland Lindahl (karin.beland.lindahl@slu.se) for additional information.

Responsible department

Faculty of Forest Sciences