



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

# SLUkurs

## Syllabus

**PNG0024 Challenges of Sustainability and Climate Change, 4.0 credits**

## Syllabus approved

2010-04-19

## 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

To have been accepted as a post graduate student at a university department.

## Objective, including learning outcomes

This course is the fourth in a series of internationally organized courses under the theme of Action Research Action Learning (ARAL). In 2010 it is being offered

through NRML Research School at SLU, in partnership with Roskilde University.

It provides participants the opportunity to discuss the role of Action Research in making the global-local linkages in relation to the challenges of sustainability and in the light of climate change phenomena.

Following on from the previous course which addressed the politics of action research and the actors' role in change processes, the emphasis this year will be on the aspects of emancipation and power relations, when working with global phenomena and challenges and about taking local action.

The course will continue to bring in creative methods for Action Research in situations when participants cannot speak freely due to existing power relations. It aims to link early stage researchers (PhD students) with experienced researchers to discuss ARAL experiences and critically reflect on its use in own and others research situations.

A centerpiece of the course will be the examination of a field case connected to a local community near Uppsala working with their own participatory planning process in relation to the restoration of the Lake Tämnaaren. This project is assisted by SLU as part of their action research work in relation to European Water Framework Directive and its implementation at local and national level.

## **Content**

In this course the students will participate in:

Lectures:

- To present theory and methodology of various ARAL methods.
- To discuss the relevance and use of ARAL in nature-society relations.

Workshops/ visits:

- To visit a local community organization and interact with stakeholders participating in a Lake Restoration project through ARAL methods.
- To learn and discuss about case studies that applied ARAL methods.
- To experiment with creative methods for Action Research.

Reading and Writing:

- To read the literature provided
- To produce a 6000 word paper prior to the course
- Revise and submit the final paper for assessment

Reflection:

- To link lectures with personal learning experiences and own research.
- To discuss with facilitators in groups own papers and ARAL.

### **Requirements for examination**

- Participation in class room work, group sessions, workshops and field visit
- Write individual paper for discussion during the course and deliver the final paper incorporating course concepts and individual needs

### **Additional information**

Venue: SOL, SLU, Uppsala. 1-4 June 2010

Paper: The deadline for papers is 15 May 2010. Max. 6000 words

Course organizers:

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods Research School NRML

Roskilde University – Department of Environmental, Social and Spatial Change

Sponsors:

Lecturers, speakers and facilitators:

Professor Nadarajah Sriskandarajah (Swedish University of Agric Sciences, Uppsala)

Professor Kurt Aagaard Nielsen (Roskilde University Center, Denmark)

Dr. Hans Peter Hansen (Swedish University of Agric Sciences, Uppsala)

Professor Marja Liisa Swantz (Helsinki University)

Professor Peter Reason (University of Bath )

### **Responsible department**

Department of Urban and Rural Development