

Basic literature course in environmental science, 5 hp

Grundläggande litteraturkurs inom miljövetenskap, 5 hp

Course Code/Codes	50BI039
Subject Area	Biology
School/equivalent	School of Science and Technology
Valid from	2019-10-29
Approved	2019-10-29
Revised	-
Approved by	Peter johansson
Translation to English, date and signature	-

1 Course content

The course is based on literature that is focused on the environmental sciences. The course is intended to strengthen the doctoral student's knowledge in a topic area of their thesis research. In this course, the doctoral student will increase their knowledge of basic concepts in environmental science that are most strongly associated with their research topic.

2 Outcomes

2.1 The course in relation to the doctoral programme

The course shall primarily refer to the following intended learning outcomes for third-cycle courses and study programmes as described in the Higher Education Ordinance, i.e. the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field (part of outcome 1)
- advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field (part of outcome 1)
- familiarity with research methodology in general (part of outcome 2)
- familiarity with the methods of the specific field of research in particular (part of outcome 2)

Competence and skills

- the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis (part of outcome 3)
- the ability to identify the need for further knowledge (outcome 7)
- the capacity to support the learning of others (part of outcome 8)

Judgement and approach

- intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude (part of outcome 9)

- specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used (outcome 10)

The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

2.2 Intended course learning outcomes

To obtain a passing grade, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

Ability to provide written and oral presentation and discussion of the field of science that is central to the selected literature.

- Ability to critically review scientific text.

3 Reading list and other teaching material

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course:

The doctoral student chooses course literature in agreement with the supervisor. The literature must be approved by the subject representative. The course literature should consist of a textbook focused on basic aspects in the area of environmental science.

4 Teaching formats

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

Tutorials where the doctoral student reads the literature on their own.
Writing an overview of the selected literature by the doctoral student.
Oral presentation and discussion of the selected literature.

5 Examination

The course is assessed through an examination that consist of the following components. The individual components are not graded separately, but together they provide the basis for an overall assessment and grading.

1. Oral presentation of the selected literature.

A presentation containing background, review of the knowledge and critical analysis of the selected literature.

2. Written assignment of the selected literature.

During the course, written compilation of the scientific content is completed at a high standard in terms of structure, style, language proficiency, composition, and target audience.

For examinations consisting of several examination components, the following applies: If during the course it is concluded that a doctoral student is unable to complete a certain examination component, the examiner may set a substitute assignment provided that circumstances do not reasonably allow for the course component to be completed at a later date during the run of the course.

6 Grades

Examinations on third-cycle courses and study programmes are to be assessed according to a two-grade scale with either of the grades 'fail' or 'pass' (local regulations).

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner) (Higher Education Ordinance).

To obtain a passing grade on examinations included in the course, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the intended course learning outcomes as described in section 2.2. Alternatively, if the course consists of multiple examinations generating credit, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the outcomes that the examination in question refers to in accordance with section 5.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to a retake.

If an examination consists of several examination components, and a student fails an examination component, the examiner may, as an alternative to a retake, set a make-up assignment with regard to the examination component in question.

A doctoral student who has failed an examination twice for a specific course or course element is entitled, upon his/her request, to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade.

7 Admission to the course

7.1 Admission requirements

To gain access to the course and complete the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to a doctoral programme at Örebro University.

7.2 Selection

Selection between applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University and who otherwise meet the admission requirements as listed above is made according to the following order of precedence:

1. Applicants from the subject of biology at Örebro University
2. Other applicants who are admitted to postgraduate education at Örebro University

If no other selection criteria are specified in this section, priority shall be given to applicants with a lower number of course credits left before the award of their degree over applicants with a higher number of remaining course credits. Should two or more students have equal number of credits, selection will be done through the drawing of lots. This also applies within any selection groups listed unless otherwise stated.

7.3 Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University

Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University may be given access to the course on the grounds of provisions for and/or agreements regarding contracted courses, joint degrees, national graduate schools or cooperation in other respects with other universities.

Any decisions on what such other applicants may be given access to the course are made separately and on the basis of the provisions and/or agreements that occasion the student to apply for the course.

For participation in the course in other respects, the same provisions shall apply as for doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

8 Transfer of credits for courses, study programmes and other experience

Provisions on the transfer of credits can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and on the university's webpage.

9 Other information

Transitional provisions