Introduction to Environmental Science

Title	Introduction to Environmental Science	
Semester	E2024	
Master programme in	Environmental Science	
Type of activity	Course	
Teaching language	English	
Study regulation	Read about the Master Programme and find the Study Regulations at $\underline{ruc.dk}$	
	Læs mere om uddannelsen og find din studieordning på <u>ruc.dk</u>	
REGISTRATION AND STUDY ADMINISTRATIVE		
Registration	You register for activities through <u>stads selvbetjening</u> during the announced registration period, which you can see on the <u>Study</u> administration homepage.	
	When registering for courses, please be aware of the potential conflicts and overlaps between course and exam time and dates. The planning of course activities at Roskilde University is based on the recommended study programmes, which should not overlap. However, if you choose optional courses and/or study plans that goes beyond the recommended study programmes, an overlap of lectures or exam dates may occur depending on which courses you choose.	
Number of		
participants		
ECTS	5	
Responsible for the activity	Kristian Syberg (<u>ksyberg@ruc.dk</u>)	
Head of study	Per Meyer Jepsen (<u>pmjepsen@ruc.dk</u>)	
Teachers		
Study administration	INM Registration & Exams (inm-exams@ruc.dk)	
Exam code(s)	U60090	

ACADEMIC CONTENT

Overall objective	This course will introduce students to the field of Environmental Science. The course contains lectures, exercises, class-room discussions and student presentations and is initiated by a presentation of the largest and
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	most significant global environmental problems as identified by the concept of Planetary Boundaries and UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The course seeks to cut across the science/social sciences divide by using an inter-disciplinary framework to understand the causes, impacts and potential solutions of these environmental issues by focusing also on the link between societal actions and impact on the environment. This interdisciplinary approach allows students to analyse both environmental consequences of societal actions and potential solutions to the environmental degradation caused by these actions within the framework of Environmental Science using elements from both natural and social sciences.
Detailed description of content	This course will introduce students to the field of Environmental Science.
	The course contains lectures, exercises, class-room discussions and student presentations and is initiated by a presentation of the largest and most significant global environmental problems as identified by the concept of Planetary Boundaries and UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Th course will further introduce the concept of Ecosystem services.
	The course seeks to cut across the science/social sciences divide by using an inter-disciplinary framework to understand the causes, impacts and potential solutions of these environmental issues by focusing also on the link between societal actions and impact on the environment.
	This interdisciplinary approach allows students to analyse both environmental consequences of societal actions and potential solutions to the environmental degradation caused by these actions within the framework of Environmental Science, using elements from both natural and social sciences.
Course	
material and Reading list	The course will draw upon scientific literature, reports from authorities and publications from relevant stakeholders. Specific content will be made available over Moodle.
Overall plan and expected work effort	lectures: 40 hours The main part of the course will be lectures that address the different topics of the course
	Preparation: 80 hours Students are expected to prepare approximately 2 hours for each 1 hour of lecture. This includes preparing presentations made in groups
	Student presentations and exercises: 12 hours The students will present cases related to the topics of the course
	Final question time: 2 hours There will be a session of two hours after the course, where students can ask questions related to the course and the exam
	Exam: 1 hour The exam is a 30 min oral exam, with 30 min preparation
	Total: 135 hours
Format	
Evaluation	
and feedback	The course includes formative evaluation based on dialogue between the students and the teacher(s).

	 quality. Every other year at the end of the course, there will also be an evaluation through a questionnaire in SurveyXact. The Study Board will handle all evaluations along with any comments from the course responsible teacher. Furthermore, students can, in accordance with RUCs 'feel free to state your views' strategy through their representatives at the study board, send evaluations, comments or insights form the course to the study board during or after the course.
Programme	The course will be based on subsequent introductions to the themes of the course (Planetary boundaries, SDGs and Ecosystem Services). Student presentations will integrate understandings of these themes in their presentations. Specific program will be made available on Moodle
ASSESSMENT	
Overall learning outcomes	 After completing the course, the students will be able to: demonstrate knowledge of the scientific basis of the most important environmental challenges, their cause(s), consequences and possible solution through scientific and social actions analyse and evaluate how anthropogenic consumption, production and distribution of resources and goods impact the environment throughout value chains demonstrate knowledge of how scientists have to interact with policy makers and the public at large in the formulation of environmental management policies needed in the interests of global sustainability demonstrate how science is used to inform decision making through broadly accepted risk assessment principles and by setting thresholds etc be able to access and evaluate environmental challenges from both a scientific and a production chain perspective initiate and conduct interdisciplinary research into a specific environmental topic, thereby linking production and resource use with environmental impact.
Form of examination	Individual oral exam with time for preparation. Time for preparation including time to pick a question by drawing lots: 30 minutes. Time allowed for exam including time used for assessment: 30 minutes. Permitted support and preparation materials: All. Assessment: 7-point grading scale. Moderation: Internal co-assessor.
Form of Re- examination Type of examination in	Samme som ordinær eksamen / same form as ordinary exam

Examination and assessment criteria

The exam is an individual oral exam with time for preparation. Time for preparation including time to pick a question by drawing lots is 30 minutes, and time allowed for exam including time used for assessment is 30 minutes. The oral exam starts with a 5-minute presentation by the student on basis of the question drawn and is followed by discussion.

Assesment criteria:

• demonstrate knowledge of the scientific basis of the most important environmental challenges, their cause(s), consequences and possible solution through scientific and social actions

• analyse and evaluate how anthropogenic consumption, production and distribution of resources and goods impact the environment throughout value chains

• demonstrate knowledge of how scientists have to interact with policy makers and the public at large in the formulation of environmental management policies needed in the interests of global sustainability

• demonstrate how science is used to inform decision making through broadly accepted risk assessment principles and by setting thresholds etc

• clearly present and communicate the scientific content of the course

• engage in a scientific dialogue and discussion with the assessors

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