



## **SGR021F Degrowth and sustainability pathways, 5 credits, third cycle**

The course syllabus was approved by the Research Studies Council on 2023-12-06.

The syllabus is valid from spring semester 2024.

### **General information**

The course is offered as a freestanding, third cycle course at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The language of instruction is English, depending on the group of course participants.

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

#### ***Knowledge and Understanding***

- Demonstrate theoretical knowledge to postgrowth/degrowth from various schools of thought, while emphasizing praxis in multiple social spheres such as scholar-activism,
- Locate various positions in degrowth and their interrelation with long-term visions on socio-ecological sustainability,
- Identify the ways in which feminist, Marxist and decolonial contributions in the social sciences informs degrowth scholarship.

#### ***Competence and Skills***

- Reflect upon the complexity of socio-ecological transitions from growth critical perspectives,
- Formulate transformative pathways at the nexus of economy and ecology.

### *Judgment and Approach*

- Evaluate major developments in the field of degrowth with a particular focus on sustainability transitions,
- Be able to apply a economic growth critique in one's own research interest or thesis topic.

### Course content

In the context of a climate and planetary emergency and the failure of 'green growth' solutions there is an increasing demand from society and students to learn about societal models (including welfare provision) that function without growth. This course will offer this by placing wellbeing for all species and natural systems at the center and rethinking our social systems independent of economic growth in fields such as work culture and labor, decision-making.

This introductory course engages with the 'degrowth' discourse by bringing it in critical dialogue with disciplines including i) political ecology, ii) political economy, iii) feminist scholarship, and iv) ecological economics and v) sustainable welfare.

Course offers **overview** and **insights** into the ways in which socio-ecological sustainability transitions can be enhanced by the degrowth perspective. Focusing on theoretical, yet empirically anchored, **themes** such as sustainable welfare, steady-state economy, sustainable wellbeing economy, work, care, conviviality and justice, the course unfolds strengths and limitations of these themes in the context of achieving socio-ecological sustainability, as informed by a range of complexities and scalar dimensions.

### Course design

The course is built on thematic sessions each of which is composed of a lecture and a seminar. Each session will begin with a brief lecture and be followed by a seminar at which groups make presentations to critically introduce and discuss notions and perspectives brought up in the course literature under a specific theme.

Intending to provide a platform for a course participant's own research, each doctoral student is invited to consider the ways in

which course readings could enrich their research perspectives. In a final essay, course participants would explore such connections.

## Assessment

The course is based on lectures and seminars. Active participation is a precondition and thus required by course participants. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in seminars. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re- take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Each course participant concludes the course by writing a final essay designed as a thesis chapter or a scientific article to engage directly with growth critical thinking.

## Grades

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail. To receive a Pass the doctoral student must fulfil the learning outcomes of the course.

At the beginning of the course, students will be informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus as well as the grading scale and how it is applied at the course.

## Entry requirements and selection

Applicants must be admitted to a doctoral programme. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available places at the course, students from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University can be prioritized.