



LUND UNIVERSITY

International Institute for
Industrial Environmental Economics

Course Curriculum for IMEN26 Environmental Assessment Methods

1. General information

Course code: IMEN26

Course name: Environmental Assessment Methods

Main field: Environmental Management and Policy

Master level. Advanced level A1F

Credits: 6 ECTS

Language of instruction: English

Approved by Utbildningsnämnd C, Lund University, Faculty of Engineering, 9 April 2014

Valid from Autumn semester 2014

2. General Description of the Course

This course is a compulsory course in the second semester of the EMP (MSc in Environmental Management and Policy) programme aiming to provide a basis for measuring environmental advancement, particularly from a life cycle perspective. The course builds on the knowledge built during the first semester of the programme, and provides a basis for both professional activities in the area, course work throughout the second and third semesters, and the final thesis semester.

3. Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall be able to

- Explain theory and practice of environmental assessment methods based on lifecycle thinking and in particular life cycle assessment;
- Critically review the results of life cycle assessment studies and present qualitative evaluation of results to the management in a company or other organisation;
- Discuss possibilities and limitations of assessing environmental impacts of a product system using lifecycle perspective;
- Explain the key building blocks of neoclassical economics and fundamental assumptions of the neoclassical model;
- Describe and explain the rationale embedded in different economic valuation methods, including their scope and relevance in specific cases
- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic functioning of Cost-Benefit Analysis and its limitations; including the practice of discounting and consequences when applied to environmental issues

4. Course content

The course has two main components:

Life Cycle Assessment module. In this module the students learn fundamentals on methods for assessing environmental impact covering life cycle assessment and other related environmental assessment tools. The focus is on life cycle assessment and student time in this module is largely put into an exercise where life cycle assessment are analysed.

The Economic Valuation of Environmental Change (EVEC) module introduces students to monetary valuation methods of environmental change being put forward by environmental economics. The course aims at providing students with knowledge for critically reviewing the significance and usefulness of different valuation methods that can support environmental policy, including the mechanics and limitations of Cost-Benefit Analysis.

5. Teaching and assessment

The course involves lecturers, seminars, study visits, and assignments. Grading is based on individual and group performance, via written exam and assignments.

Grading scale

The following grades are used: Fail -3 – 4 – 5 (TH).



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6. Prerequisites

Students should have completed the first semester of the EMP programme

7. Literature

The final reading list is issued by the Institute no later than five weeks before the course starts.