



LUND UNIVERSITY

International Institute for
Industrial Environmental Economics

Course Curriculum for IMEN34 Applied Research Methods

1. General information

Course code: IMEN34

Course name: Applied Research Methods

Main field: Environmental Management and Policy

Master level. Advanced level A1F

Credits: 8 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

Applied research methods is given as a compulsory course in the third semester of the IIIIEE masters programme in Environmental Management and Policy. The course is tightly interlinked with the individual research paper written in the course on applied research in sustainable consumption and production (ARSCP), and the thesis project in the final semester. The course builds on research skills developed during the first two semesters of the programme and prepares for the thesis project.

3. Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall have obtained skills and knowledge making it possible to undertake a master thesis project, and particularly an ability to:

- Reflect on the use of research methods relevant to the field
- Reflect on the various ways to gather primary information
- Demonstrate capability to carry out the initial scoping of a thesis project
- Demonstrate a preparedness to undertake a thesis project in a selected area of study

4. Course content

The course allows the student to practise skills in the application of research methods relevant for study of sustainable consumption and production, and allows to student to gain knowledge in selected themes of study. The course is by and large an individual undertaking with peer learning from review and discussion of each others efforts. Group assignments may appear but constitutes a lesser part of the examination. The course has the following main parts:

Applications of research methods

ARM-thesis – This module is closely connected to the thesis project and provides Initial research for this. The module prepares the thesis project by

- Assessing the relevance of the intended project by interviewing selected key actors
- Defining objective, research questions and method of the thesis project
- Performing a significant part of the literature review

These tasks are carried out under the supervision of the thesis supervisor/s, and the outcome is presented and discussed in class.

ARM+. This module explores planning of research projects and various aspects obtaining, structuring and analysing information. This involves practical assignments for both external and internal clients, performed both as individual and group assignments. This section involves interaction with alumni to the programme with the dual objectives to practice information-gathering and learning about the realities of the job market. Other themes of study are selected among timely topics in the debate. Selection is done with input from the student group.

5. Teaching and assessment

The course is designed as a series of lectures, practical exercises and assignments. Grading is mainly based on individual assignments, but group assignments may contribute.

Grading scale

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



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6. Prerequisites

Students should have completed the first two semesters of the EMP programme

7. Literature

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