



## SYLLABUS FOR Sustainable Society: Introduction

CREDITS: 2,5

### TARGET GROUP

Doctoral students and others interested in sustainability issues and sustainable developments goals (SDGs), independently of research field.

### PREREQUISITES

Being enrolled in a doctoral programme or equivalent.

### AIM

The course aims to provide an overview of what sustainability entails in theory and practice, by adopting different perspectives. Furthermore, the course aims to develop participants' critical thinking concerning challenges and opportunities related to sustainability.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completion of the course, the participants will be able to:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- Participants should have an overview of the concept of sustainability and its main dimensions, as well as the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Participants should have a critical grasp at opportunities and challenges relating to achieving SDGs and a more sustainable society

#### *Competence and skills*

- Ability to critically analyse the factors that contribute to and factors that hinder a sustainable society and the achieving of SDGs
- Ability to connect sustainability perspectives and concepts to own research topic (area)



### *Judgement and approach*

- The basic approach is to pinpoint the main dimensions of sustainability and draw linkages between these and the 17 SDGs suggested by UN
- The participants should reflect on how multiple SDGs can be reached and whether this poses obstacles or opportunities for various stakeholders

### **CONTENTS**

Critical thinking and reflection are at the basis of this course. The aim is for the participants to gain basic understanding and knowledge about the UN's SDGs and sustainability dimensions, and to reflect on how these might connect with and contribute to their own research.

The course is further meant to provide basic insights about negative aspects of the SDG's and sustainability, e.g. conflicts between various SDGs, or dark sides of sustainability issues. By doing so the course would prepare participants to address potential sustainability challenges in an improved manner and with a more holistic perspective in mind.

### **ORGANISATION**

The course is organised in four modules. Each module includes a three-hour workshop. The workshops focus on a basic level on the three dimensions of sustainability but also on the potential challenges or 'dark sides' of sustainability. All these are further linked with SDGs, and participants reflect on opportunities and challenges of reaching multiple SDGs. The participants receive reading materials that have to be read before each workshop. After each workshop, the participants submit a new version of the course paper, which can be seen as a 'live' document, which can be improved throughout the course's duration. An estimated 68 hours of work for the whole course is calculated.



### EXAMINATION

- Course paper where students reflect on each of the four workshops' topics and on challenges and opportunities of reaching SDGs along the three dimensions of sustainability. The reflections may or may not be linked to participants' own research topic
- Attendance compulsory at workshops

### WORKSHOP DATES

The four workshops are planned on the 5/11, 19/11, 4/12 and 17/12. They will run in the afternoons (13.15-16.00 or 15:15-18.00) on Zoom.

To sign up for the course or if you have questions email:

[angelina.sundstrom@mdh.se](mailto:angelina.sundstrom@mdh.se) or [ioana.stefan@mdh.se](mailto:ioana.stefan@mdh.se)

**The course team wish you welcome to the course!**