

LB0108 Agroecology Basics 15 HEC 2021

The course aims to provide students with basic and advanced knowledge and the ability to understand human-dominated ecosystems and their interaction/connectivity with the surrounding environment (natural and cultural), with the focus on agriculture systems.

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- describe and critically analyse farming systems, including mutual interactions of socio-economical and biological components.
- demonstrate methodological skills in application of holistic and farming systems descriptions and analyses.

The course starts August 31st and ends on October 29th 2021

Teachers

Anders Kristoffersson, SLU (AK)
 Advait Chakravarthy (AC)
 Anna Hofny-Collins (EXT) (AC)
 Barry Ness, LU (BN)
 Ellen Fall (Library)
 Georg Carlsson, SLU (GC)
 Kristin Aleklett Kadish (KAK)
 Laura Grenville-Briggs Didymus, SLU (LGBD)
 Leif Bengtsson SLU (LB)
 Marco Tasin, SLU (MT)
 Mattias Larsson, SLU (ML)
 Linda-Maria Mårtensson, SLU (LME)
 Niclas Östlund (NÖ)
 Raj Chongtham Imam (RCI)
 Robin Meijer (RM)
 Siri Kjellberg, LU (SK)
 Teun Dekker, SLU (TD)
 Torgny Östling, NordBruk (will be replaced)
 Weronika Swiergiel, (EXT) (WS)
 Åsa Ode (ÅO)
Some guest lecturers will be added later

Course administrators

Katarina Lantz (katarina.lantz@slu.se)

Course leaders

Teun Dekker (teun.dekker@slu.se)
 Paul Becher (paul.becher@slu.se)

The final mark will be based on the following due assignments:

- 1) introduction to Agroecology (pass with 3-5) (due September 10)
- 2) reflection on participatory approaches to research, development and extension and on the peanut model (pass with 3-5) (due September 23)
- 3) individual presentation on farm comparison through Gliessman level approach (pass/fail) (due October 6)
- 4) analysis and presentation of a farming system including a session as opponent (pass with 3-5) (to be submitted on-line before 3 pm on October 23)

***Lectures are held in Articum 3, A3, unless otherwise indicated.

Zoomlink (unless otherwise indicated): <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/67300328547> pw: AEBasics21 Quality and availability not assured.

Lectures may be recorded and placed on Canvas

Week	Date	Day	Time	compulsory assignment		Teacher	Place***
				compulsory assignment	compulsory participation		
35	30-Aug	Monday					
	31 Aug	Tuesday	09.15 -12.00	Reading Gliessman Chapter 1-2 and watch Tittonel, Altieri and La Via Campesina videos (as a preparation for the t		self study	
			13:15-17:00	Presentation of the course by teachers, current view, levels and perspectives in agroecology. 624 4902 0643, 8994 prepare poster for presentations tomorrow, 1 slide + 1 min movie about yourself, upload to shorturl.at/hDTUV		TD and MT	-
	1 Sept	Wednesday	9.15-12.00	student presentations: 1 'slide' (picture of poster), 3 min max pp 2 min q&a		TD	
			13.15-15.00	Agroecology definition: seminar (+ group poster work with objectives)		TD	
			15.00-17.00	Individual work: reading literature and preparing Assignment 1		-	
2	Thursday	09.15-11.00	Agroecology - a Systemic Approach		TD		
		11:15-12:00	How to integrate definitions of Agroecology into the introduction of the final assignment (Assignment 1)		LB & CT		
		13.15 -15.00 15.00 -	Alnarpsfarmen: a student-driven local sustainable production on campus Systems Thinking and how to make a Rich Picture Alnarpsfarmen visit, individual work: reading literature and preparing Assignment 1		RCI		
3	Friday	10:15-12:00	How to write a scientific report, see also library support below and see lecture on the 16th shorturl.at/sBK27 and shorturl.at/yAJOS		TD		
		13:15-14.00	Research projects in Agroecology (AC). Introduction in afternoon activities (TD)		AC, TD		
		14:30-17.00	Farming activity at Alnarp (meeting at Växtskyddsvägen 3, Alnarp)		TD		

Lectures in Articum 3 unless otherwise indicated

Week	Date	Day	Time		Teacher	Place
36	6 Sept	Monday	09.15-12.00	Introduction to participatory approaches to RD&E	AHC	
			13.15-17.00	Common Tools used in Participatory RD&E	AHC	
			09.15-12.00	Exercises Participatory RD&E	AHC	

7	Tuesday	13.15-16.00	Exercises Participatory RD&E Read Porcel et al.2015 and 2018 and Campbell et al. 2017 (preparation for Monday afternoon)	AHC	
8	Wednesday	9:15-13:00	The Peanut Model and other sustainability assessment models Working on Assignment 1 + Read Gliessman Chapter 3-5.	TD/AHC	
9	Thursday	09:15-15:00 16:00	Group dynamic and Group formation for e-cases and for the farm excursion -"Developing students' (sustainable) entrepreneurial mindset and some ideas for its assessment" Hand in the 1 page text by loading it on your Canvas page before 24:00 (Assignment 1)	AK TD Zoom	Articum 2
10	Friday	08.30-12:30 13:15-16:00	In groups of 10. each of you will hold a ppt-type presentation of his/her def what is agroecologi. 5 min pp 2 min que E-cases - introduction to group assignment & selection of E-cases per group	TD, RM TD	

Week	Date	Day	Time		Teacher	
37	13 Sept	Monday	9.15-12.00	E-cases group work	-	
			13.15-17:30	Agroecology in practice: video of "The Permaculture Orchard: beyond organic" + follow-up discussion in groups (2h	TD	
	14	Tuesday	09.15-12.00	E-cases report (group writing)	-	
			13:15-14:00 14.15 -17.00	Intermezzo: agroecology from theory to practise - Marco Tasin - zoom talk E-cases report (group writing)	MT	
	15	Wednesday	09.15-12.00	Preparation of PRA tools to be used in the farm excursion (Semi-structured interview, time-line, transect, flow diagra	-	
13.15 - 17.00			Preparation of PRA tools to be used in the farm excursion (Semi-structured interview, time-line, transect, flow diagra Read Porcel et al.2015 and 2018 and Campbell et al. 2017 (preparation for Friday pm)	-		
16	Thursday	08.30 -12.00 13.15-15.00	Visit to the farm "Alnarp egendom". Bring warm cloths/umbrella. Start: 0830 from the Crafoord front yard if you miss the group get to the place yourself https://goo.gl/maps/JN13cjP89n1hMSzU7 . Search and Cite, Writing and Plagiarism peer review assignment 1 due	TD LF AO	Alnarp egg	
17	Friday	08.30-12:00	group presentation e-cases, 20 min max, 5 min questions.	TD		
		13.00-16.30	Agroecology in practice from a natural science perspective: the apple case study.	MT/TD		

Week	Date	Day	Time		Teacher	Place
38	20 Sept	Monday	AM	Farm e excursions and interviews	TD	
			13.00-17.00		TD	
	21	Tuesday	AM	Farm excursions and interviews Assignment 2: Work up the farm excursion through preparation of a written (1) reflection on RD&E tools used during farm visit and (2) peanut model of the farm. Max 3 (incl. peanut model) A4 pages font 12 to be handed in on September 23.	-	-
			13.15-16.00	Cross-group sharing on (1) and (2) of assignment 2.	TD	
	22	Wednesday	9.15-12:00	Individual work on reflection RD&E and peanut model (Assignment 2)	-	-
			13.15-17:00 23:59	Read Gliessman Chapter 22-23 to prepare the group work on assignment 3 Hand in on Canvas a written reflection on RD&E and on peanut model (Assignment 2)	-	-
23	Thursday	09:15-17:00	Handson excursions in farming and food chain Gliessman 18-21	TD	various location on or close to campus	
24	Friday	09:15-13:00	continuation of some activities	TD	various	
		13.00-21:00	social cooking and dinner, guest speakers - interaction with other agroecology students		campus	

Week	Date	Day	Time		Teacher	Place
39	27 Sept	Monday	09.15 -12.00	Cropping system ecology. Zoom: https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/69948373408	GC	
			13.15-17.00	Assignment 3: Preparation of the presentation and a 2 pages report of the group work on farm comparison through	-	-
	28	Tuesday	AM	Group work Gliessman conversion levels		
			13:15-17:00	Landscape ecology.	ML	
	29	Wednesday	09.00-12.00	Catching up with readings/assignment		
13.15-17.00			Read Gliessman 14-17. If you wish, read Sustainability Assessment Tools in the 'literature' folder (Canvas) as prep	-	-	
30	Thursday	09.15 -12.00	Sustainability assessment and life-cycle assessments.	BN		
		13:15-17:00	Reading ecology literature as preparation for seminar on Monday			
1 Oct	Friday	09.15 - 12.00	Biomes.	ML		
		13.15-17.00	farming in Biomes	ML		

Week	Date	Day	Time		Teacher	Place
40	4 Oct	Monday	9:15-12:00	ecology seminar.	Seminar/ML	
			13:15 - 14.00	Ecological intensification requires sustainable manipulation for ecosystem services: aphid control in production sys	TD	
	5	Tuesday	9.15-12.00	Soil ecology and soil microbiomes	KAK, LMM	
			13:00-17:00	Literature reading (Gliessman 24-26)		
	6	Wednesday	9.15-12.00	A lecture from real life: Master in Agroecology	RM/TBD	
13.00-17.00			read: Rosset&Torres: Rural Social Movements and Agroecology;+ Östling "Global Solidarity, Global Game" + Östling Chapter 1-5			
			9.15-12.00	Literature reading (Swiergiel et al. 2017, 2019; Lowder et al. 2016) to prepare for tomorrow and Monday lectures.		

7	Thursday	13.15-16:00	read particularly the narrative of the 2017 paper	Assignment 3: Group presentation on farm comparison Gliessman levels in groups plus feedback - Hand in the 2 p	TD	
8	Friday	10.15 -12.00		A cultural-historical perspective on Swedish agriculture and agricultural policy	WS	Myllan
		13:15-15.15		Read: CANVAS: 'Torgny Östling prep readings' and "Torgny Östling back to basics selected readings"	-	-

Week	Date	Day	Time		Teacher	Place
41	11 Oct	Monday	10.15-12.00	Explanation of final assignment + english directions	TD	
			13.15-17.00	Perspectives on agricultural development from the farmers movement - Via Campesina Sweden	WS/TÖ	
	12	Tuesday	9.15 - 16.00	Business model canvas - plan your future life and impacts; inspirational lectures by potential employers	RM/TD/NÖ	
	13	Wednesday	9.15 - 12.00	Economics, CAP, WTO, and circular bioeconomy	TBD	
			13.00-17.00	Assignment 4: Individual assignment		
14	Thursday	9.15 - 16.00	prepare questions for the meetup with the director of studies Political Ecology	SK	Västan	
15	Friday	9-11	group discussions on trajectories: use the rich picture of agroecology and place yourself in it, discuss within the groups"			Articum 1-2
		11-12	Q&A with director of studies			
		-17	upload a short presentation of a rich picture of agroecology & yourself: reflections on where you see yourself develop in the coming 2 years and beyond			

Week	Date	Day	Time		Teacher	Place
42	18-22	Mo.Fri		Assignment 4: Individual assignment	-	-
	24	Sunday	15:00	Individual assignment. Upload your individual 4th assignment to your Canvas room before 3 pm (after 3pm the highest possible mark will be a "pass=3") Check in advance how to upload your essay to avoid delays that may compromise your final mark.	-	-

Week	Date	Day	Time		Teacher	Place
43	25-27	Mon-Wedn		Peer review of the opponent assignment and preparation of the presentation	-	-
	28	Thursday	9.00-17.00	Oral presentation of individual assignment	TD	
					TD	
29	Friday	9.00-12.00	Oral presentation of individual assignment	TD		Myllan
		13-21	wrapup Social dinner and activities	TD		