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EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOR CUSTOMISED EDUCATION

STUDY GUIDE

HISTORY, ENVIRONMENT AND RISK: HISTORICAL CRISIS AS SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Organised by

Karlstad University

1. IDENTIFYING DATA.	
· Course Name.	History, environment and risk: Historical crises as sources of knowledge for sustainable development – RMG711
· Coordinating University.	Karlstad University
· Partner Universities Involved.	N/A
· Course Field(s).	History, Risk and Environmental Studies
· Related Study Programme.	N/A
· ISCED Code.	0222 History and archaeology and 0521 Environmental sciences
· SDG.	1. No poverty 2. Zero hunger 3. Good Health and well-being 5. Gender equality 6. Clean water and sanitation 10. Reduced inequalities 11. Sustainable cities and communities 13. Action 15. Life on land 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
· Study Level.	B
· EUNICE Key Competencies	[Indicate the Key Competencies required for the course.] • Green – strongly • Orange- moderately • Red – partially • Blank cell - not at all

Problem solving	strongly
Teamworking	partially
Communication	moderately

	Self-management	moderately
	Cognitive flexibility	strongly
	Digital competence	not at all
	Technical competence	not at all
	Global intercultural competence	moderately

· Number of ECTS credits allocated.	7,5 ECTS
· Mode of Delivery.	Combination of online-live and self-studies. Optional live seminars.
· Language of Instruction.	English
· Course Dates.	10 November 2025 – 18 January 2026
· Precise Schedule of the Lectures.	Self-studies, course introduction – 1 hour, Seminars - 10 hours, Labs – 3 hours. Self-study assignments offered as replacement for live seminars
· Key Words.	History, Archaeology, Environmental Science, Risk management
· Catchy Phrase.	"History is the sum total of the things that could have been avoided" But could they? This course gives an overview of the history of crises from prehistory to our time, and addresses the questions: can we learn from the past for a sustainable future?

· Prerequisites and co-requisites.	60 ECTS credits completed in one or several of the following areas of study: Natural Science, Technology, Medicine, Health Science, Social Science, or the Humanities. - English B2 level.
· Number of EUNICE students that can attend the Course.	27 – 3 per partner university
· Course inscription procedure(s).	

2. CONTACT DETAILS.	
· Department.	Risk and environmental studies
· Name of Lecturer.	Eva Svensson
· E-mail.	eva.svensson@kau.se
· Other Lecturers.	Hanna Enefalk, Emelie Hindersson

3. COURSE CONTENT.

This interdisciplinary course provides a broad overview of environmental and health-related risks and crises in history from ancient times until the 20th century: how they have affected different groups of people, how they have been handled, and how this knowledge can be used to address current challenges and reach the UN global goals for sustainable development. The geographical focus is northern Europe, with global examples. The course also covers methods for historical knowledge acquisition. Instruction is in the form of lectures and mandatory seminars.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES.

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:
1. give an account of and critically reflect upon how environmental and health-related risks and crises have affected societies in the past,
2. give an account of and critically reflect upon how environmental and health-related risks and crises have been handled throughout history,
3. demonstrate how knowledge of historical risks and crises can be used to overcome current challenges to sustainable development, and
4. give an account of and critically reflect upon methods of historical knowledge acquisition in relation to risks and crises.

5. OBJECTIVES.

6. COURSE ORGANISATION.

UNITS	
1.	Seminars 3,5 ECTS
2.	Written Examination 4 ECTS

LEARNING RESOURCES AND TOOLS.

Laptop/computer

PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND TEACHING METHODS.

Recorded lectures, seminars, a laboratory session and assignment

7. ASSESSMENT METHODS, CRITERIA AND PERIOD.

Learning outcomes 1-4 are assessed based on active participation in seminars and an individual written take-home exam. Active participation in online live seminars can be replaced by written assignments and commenting on Moodle.

OBSERVATIONS.

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING MATERIALS.

Books

Bavel, Bas van, Daniel R. Curtis, Jessica Dijkman, Matthew Hannaford, Maïka de Keyzer, Eline van Onacker &Tim Soens (2020). Disasters and History: The Vulnerability and Resilience of Past Societies. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569743 Open access. 230 s.

Charpentier Ljungqvist, Fredrik (2017). Klimatet och människan under 12 000 år. Stockholm: Dialogos. 456 s. Alternativt: Lieberman, Benjamin & Gordon Elizabeth: Climate Change in Human History. Prehistory to the present

Lieberman, Benjamin & Gordon, Elizabeth (2022). Climate change in human history. Prehistory to the present. (2nd edition) (2nd). London m fl.: Bloomsbury 322 s. Alternatively: Charpentier Ljungqvist, Fredrik: Klimatet och människan under 12 000 år

McNeill, J. & Engelke, Peter O. (2016). The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene Since 1945. Cambridge (Mass.): The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. 275 s.

Reference material

Campbell, Bruce M.S. (2016). The Great Transition: Climate, Disease and Society in the Late Medieval World. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 463 s.

Articles and other online material will be added. Articles and other online material can partly replace certain parts of the course literature when authorized by the course head teacher.