Course curriculum for IMEN55 Strategic Environmental Development

1. General information
Course code: IMEN55
Course title: Strategic environmental development
Main field: Environmental Management and Policy
Master Level. Advanced level A1F.
Credit points: 9 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 third semester of the MESPOM (MSc in Environmental Science, Policy and Management) programme. The course builds on the previous knowledge built during the first two semesters of the programme, provides an opportunity to apply this knowledge in a real-life context, and constitutes a part of the preparation for the individual research projects undertaken in the final thesis semester.

3. Learning outcomes
- Apply sustainability concepts, tools and strategies in a real-world context;
- Reflect on the nature and complexity of environmental challenges in a complex real-life system;
- Describe the steps involved in putting together a report for a non-academic audience.

4. Course content
This course focuses on the consumption-related environmental problems in the modern society. It builds the learning process on close interaction with the surrounding society and enhances the skills of the students to collect primary information from societal actors and use this information together with literature to understand the type and magnitude of consumption-related environmental problems, and how these problems can be addressed by society and in particular local actors. The course is made up of one smaller assignment: The Chain Exercise, and one large assignment: The Strategic Environmental Development Exercise.

The Chain Exercise is mainly a field work during a couple of days when the production chain of a selected product is followed through study visits and interaction with various companies along the product chain. The exercise gives an overview of a specific production system and the environmental challenges related to it. The exercise is also integrated with the life cycle assessment teaching and illustrates the problems related to collecting data from primary sources.

The Strategic Environmental Development Exercise is a group assignment where the students together address a selected topic related to sustainable consumption. The topic is chosen so as to allow a close interaction with various stakeholders in the surroundings of the university and to have a defined client interested in the results produced through the work of the students. The students combine literature information and studies with data collected through interviews, questionnaires and observations to create a picture of the existing situation, the measures taken by various actors to address the issues, and finally to propose future directions of action. The direct interaction with local authorities, manufacturers, retailers, consumers, etc. is an important feature of the assignment.

5. Teaching and assessment
The course is a group-based assignment that combines field work with lectures and seminars and the results of the assignments are presented in written and orally. These presentations constitute the basis for the grading.

Grading scale
The following grades are used: Fail -3 – 4 – 5 (TH).
6. Prerequisites
Students should have completed the first two semesters of the MESPOM programme.

7. Literature
The course does not have a required reading list but readings are recommended based on the specific topics selected.