

Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures (7.5 ECTS)



Course information Autumn 2014

Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures

“Sustainable communities will not come easily – they require significant change in our structures, attitudes, and values. ... The key to a sustainable future lies not in making us more competitive, but rather in making us more perceptive, more able to realize what we have, what we need, and what are the long term consequences of the short term choices we are making.”

(Mark Roseland in *Toward Sustainable Communities* 2007:222)

This year Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures (GCSF), an interdisciplinary course at the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS), is given for the 8th time. The course is built on informative and engaging guest lectures on various global challenges of our time. In interactive workshops, seminars, an individual and a group project we will take a closer look at sustainability issues and how they are interconnected, by looking at specific regions and cities, both from global and local perspectives. The ‘red-thread’ throughout the course is the link of how global issues have an effect on local communities and individuals; and how individuals can affect local communities and therefore have an impact on global challenges.

Welcome to the course!

Ben Owen & Heleen de Goey
Course coordinators Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures 2014

CONTACT INFORMATION

Feel free to contact us regarding any aspect of the course. Preferably contact us by e-mail. You can reach us at the course email: gcsf@csduppsala.uu.se

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CEMUS COURSE PORTAL

We will post all relevant information about the course on the CEMUS Course Portal. There you will find the schedule, course information, assignments, workshop dates and locations, etc. On the course portal we will also post all (last-minute) changes/updates to the schedule, so make it a habit to visit this course portal regularly.

Check the course portal on the CEMUS website: <http://CEMUSstudent.se/gcsf/>

CEMUS' EDUCATIONAL MODEL

CEMUS originated as a student initiative in the early 1990's and has ever since been one of the few places in the world where students have an active role in the shaping and running of higher education.

Our educational model for university education is multi-disciplinary and relies on students hired as course coordinators with the assignment to produce and carry through university courses. A work group of senior academics and practitioners supports and overview the planning process and guarantee the academic quality of the education.

CEMUS' OPEN LECTURES

Every semester CEMUS kicks off with a series of open events and lectures. This year you are welcome to visit the following open lectures:

Time	Lecture	Location
Mon 1st Sept 18:15-20:00	CEMUS Open Lecture: Introductory lecture <i>A Storm Blowing from Paradise</i> Dougald Hine, educator, writer, activist scholar	Eva Netzeliussalen, Blåsenhus
Wed 3rd Sept 10:15-12:00	CEMUS Open Lecture <i>Sustainability</i> Alan AtKisson, writer, consultant, musician	Ekmanalen, EBC
Tue 9th Sept 10:15-12:00	CEMUS Open Lecture & Discussion <i>Swedish pension investments, human rights and mining in Guatemala</i> Mario Lopez, indigenous leader	Hambergsalen, Geocentrum
Mon 15th Sept 15.15-17.00	CEMUS Open Meeting: Live report from the Balaton Meeting Isak Stoddard, Acting Programme Director CEMUS	Hambergsalen, Geocentrum

LEARNING OUTCOMES GCSF

On completion of the GCSF course, the student should be able to:

- *From a multidisciplinary perspective account for the present sustainability challenge in a global context.*
- *Account for different causes to and possible solutions to the sustainability challenge in a specific city or region, and be able to relate these to global challenges within the sustainability field.*
- *Reflect and critically relate to his/her role relating to the causes and solutions of the sustainability challenge.*

LEARNING PROCESS AND COURSE STRUCTURE

The course consists of a series of guest lectures, both from academics and actors, on various global challenges. The lectures are complemented with relevant literature each week. In addition to that there will be two student-lead evenings, a documentary week and a debate night, where students will have the opportunity to influence the content of the course. During several workshops and seminars you will reflect on the theory provided and apply it to your group project. In this group project you will focus on a sustainability challenge in a specific region. Last, there will be an individual project in which you are encouraged to act and reflect upon your own role and contribution towards sustainable development.

Outside of the regular course schedule we will organize several social events and documentary viewings after class. This will give you the chance to share ideas, continue interesting discussions and to get to know each other better. If you have any suggestions for something to do after class, feel free to take the initiative to plan something!

ASSESSMENT

GCSF is a Pass or Fail course of 7.5 ECTS in total. In order to pass the course the following criteria will have to be completed:

1. **75% attendance** - Active participation in class, including preparatory reading of course literature
2. **Workshops and student led evenings** - Attendance and active participation during all workshops and student led evenings (Seminar I, DocWeek and RolePlay), including the completion of preparatory assignments and reading
3. **Literature seminar** – Attendance and active participation during the final literature seminar, including the completion of a literature assignment
4. **Individual project** – Completion of individual project – 30 Day Challenge
5. **GCSF Group project** – Completion of a group project ‘Global to Local,’ including the submission of a draft report, a poster presentation and peer review

LITERATURE

Two books will be required to be read throughout the course.

- *The Post Carbon Reader : Managing the 21st century's sustainability crisis* – edited by Richard Heinberg and Daniel Lerch
- *Eaarth: Making a life on a tough new planet* – Bill McKibben

The books can be ordered online at Adlibris.se, Bokus.com and at amazon.com. The books will be also available in CEMUS' library – but only for reading in the library, not for borrowing.

COURSE READER

During the course we will also make use of a course reader which consists of different articles and book chapters. This reader can be bought from the course coordinators during CEMUS Open House and at the first lecture.

SCHEDULE

The GCSF course starts on Tuesday the 2nd of September through the 16th of December. Classes will usually be held on Tuesday evenings from 17.15. to 19.30, with some exceptions which are marked in the *preliminary* schedule. You will find a copy of the schedule below.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE COURSE

Here is a brief presentation of everyone involved in the development of this course.

COURSE COORDINATORS

Heleen de Goey is from the Netherlands. She has a bachelor's degree in Industrial Design and a master's degree in Sustainable Development (from Uppsala University). She has taken several CEMUS courses and is a course coordinator for the CEMUS course Sustainable Design. In the fall semester of 2014 she will start the second year of a master's program in Sustainable Technology (at KTH, Stockholm), besides coordinating GCSF.

Ben Owen is from the United Kingdom. He has a bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering and he is enrolled in the master's program in Sustainable Development at Uppsala University. He has taken many CEMUS courses in previous semesters and is also the course coordinator for the CEMUS Project Management course. In the fall semester of 2014 he will continue to write his master thesis, work with his housing project 'Plug-Inn' as well as complete the construction of his own home.

COURSE REFERENCE GROUP

All CEMUS' courses collaborate with a work group of senior teachers and researchers from Uppsala's two universities. The work group will contribute to course content, concepts, and examination methods. The work group formally examines students on the courses. This year's group consists of:

Malin Östman has studied philosophy, American studies, history of art, aesthetics, environment and development studies and anthropology. She is currently one of the educational coordinators at CEMUS/CSD and she is working with three master courses.

Per Hulthen is an architect, professor and researcher with a main interest in sustainable building and transportation. His current research is focused on resource efficiency and sustainable urban infrastructures.

Thomas Norrby works as a consultant in rural development and initiates collaboration between the academic world and society. He is also responsible for the development of a course in entrepreneurship, organization and leadership at SLU.

Daniel Mossberg is working as director of studies at CEMUS. He has worked at CEMUS since 2004 and has a background in Cultural Anthropology, Philosophy and Sustainable Development.

Isak Stoddard is the educational coordinator at CEMUS. He holds a Master's degree in Engineering Physics with a focus on systems technology and renewable energy. For his Master's thesis, Isak travelled to West Java in Indonesia, to develop small-scale biogas systems in close cooperation with two local organizations.

Jens Mansson is the student representative for this course reference group. He has recently completed his master degree in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University and has taken various CEMUS courses in the previous semesters.

ABOUT CEMUS

CEMUS, the Center for Environment and Development Studies, has as its goal to advance and inspire education and knowledge within the field of environment and development studies, as well as other vital boundary crossing issues connected to the compelling topic of sustainable development.

CEMUS' unique beginnings was a successful initiative by students in the early 90's and CEMUS courses are, in large part, still run by students today. Since January 2007, CEMUS joined the Uppsala Center for Sustainable Development in conjunction with Uppsala University and SLU, Sweden's agricultural university, with a focus on interdisciplinary environment and development studies.

CEMUS is led by an advisory group of representatives from SLU, Uppsala University faculties, as well as students. The administrative supervision of CEMUS is held by a program director and a board of directors. CEMUS has around 25 employees, most of whom are students hired as course coordinators. These coordinators help create and run CEMUS courses, both entry and advanced levels, and they work in close collaboration with well-respected teachers and researchers from both universities while striving to maintain high pedagogical ambitions.

CEMUS EDUCATION

CEMUS has since the beginning focused its university studies on a comprehensive understanding of our current world's most pertinent survival issues. This demands innovative teaching methods and an interdisciplinary approach. From its very inception, CEMUS courses have been run by students with the continual support of work groups, whose members include professors and researchers from both Uppsala universities.

CEMUS' primary launching point and approach is based on what is today usually called "education for sustainable development". Through democratic, realistic and extensive work modes, this teaching method strives to motivate students to heighten their critical thinking skills, as well as encouraging responsibility taking and engagement in the issues of sustainable development.

The courses function as a complement to the universities' specialized education and CEMUS course selection is constantly widening its scope to address the most current debates in our society, as well as student requests. In total, over 3000 undergraduate students have passed one of the different 7,5 to 15 credits courses offered at CEMUS.

Besides Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures, CEMUS also organizes the following courses:

Fall semester 2014

- Global Sustainability Science Course Package, 30 ECTS
- Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Development in Sweden, 7.5 ECTS
- The Global Economy – Environment, Development and Globalization, 15 ECTS
- Sustainable Development - Project Management and Communication, 15 ECTS
- Hållbar Utveckling A, 30 ECTS
- Människan och naturen, 7.5 ECTS
- Global miljöhistoria, 7.5 ECTS
- Klimatet, energin och det moderna samhället, 7.5 ECTS
- Worldviews and Visions, a Seminar Series (part of the Master program for Sustainable Development – only open to students from the program) , 5 ECTS
- Introduction to Interdisciplinary Science (part of the Master program for Sustainable Development – only open to students from the program), 5 ECTS

Spring semester 2015

- Applied Sustainability Science Course Package, 30 ECTS
- Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainable Futures, 7.5 ECTS
- Sustainable Design – Ecology, Culture and Human Built Worlds, 7.5 ECTS
- Climate Change Leadership – Power, Politics and Culture, 15 ECTS
- Sustainable Development - Project Management and Communication, 15 ECTS
- Hållbar utveckling B, 30 ECTS
- Livsfilosofi och det moderna samhället, 7.5 ECTS
- Teknik, makt och mänsklighetens framtid, 7.5 ECTS
- Hållbar utveckling – värderingar, världsbilder och visioner, 15 ECTS
- Worldviews and Discourses, a Seminar Series (part of the Master program for Sustainable Development – only open to students from the program) , 5 ECTS
- Current Themes and Debates in Global Environmental History (part of the Master program in Global Environmental History – only open to students from the program), 7.5 ECTS

Summer 2015

- Urban Agriculture – Permaculture and Local Food Systems, 7.5 ECTS

CEMUS' FORUM

CEMUS is also a meeting place, or arena, for students, organizations, researchers, the private sector and others with an interest in questions concerning sustainable development. CEMUS offers a place for a wide spectrum of different kinds of meetings and activities. If you want to know more about CEMUS' Arena you can talk to Sara Andersson or go to <http://www.csduppsala.uu.se/forum/CEMUS/>

CEMUS FORUM FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Since a few years, CEMUS has developed an inter-disciplinary research forum, Cefo, for the doctoral students at Uppsala University and SLU. Cefo's activities are centered around the doctoral seminar and its main focal point is, like in the rest of CEMUS' activities, environment and development issues. Besides the doctoral seminar, Cefo works with organizing courses at doctoral level, offer assisting thesis tutors, organize international field trips and offers a possibility of financing research trips. Cefo is also developing international networks for doctoral students and researchers and is working on widening its operations to include bigger research areas and projects.

CEMUS' ROOTS

CEMUS' Roots is the name of CEMUS' student organization. By being involved in CEMUS' Roots and the student council - the board of CEMUS' Roots - you represent the interest of students in CEMUS' different work groups and the board of CSD Uppsala. CEMUS' Roots brings up issues concerning the future of CEMUS' activities, organize seminars, and more.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

CEMUS is open between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm, Mondays to Fridays. If you want to use the computers located in the Geocentrum library or study in the library during other hours of the day or during weekends, you can easily get a keycard. To get a keycard, go to the janitors' office next door to the library in Geocentrum.

In CEMUS library you will find literature related to environment and development issues, up-to-date magazines and journals. You can also have a cup of coffee from the nearby coffee shop, slouch in the sofas and read the course literature. All the course literature for CEMUS' courses is available there, but only for reading inside the library, not taking home. Other books, that are not course literature, are available to borrow.

You can use our facilities for organizing open meetings, conferences, seminars, movie shows, lectures, et cetera. Send an e-mail for more information and help.

IMPORTANT LOCATIONS:

