Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Development in Sweden, 7.5 hp
Sweden is often portrayed as a world leader within the sustainability field, but does Sweden live up to that image? Which Swedish cases can serve as inspiration and be considered as good examples of sustainability in practice and which ones are found lacking? Sustainable Development has become a highly contested concept. This course takes a closer, critical look at how Sweden has worked with Sustainable Development historically and how well current initiatives can serve as a model for sustainability on a global level.

Welcome to Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Development in Sweden!

Cecilia & Sanna

Contact Information

Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) at Uppsala University,
Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS)
http://www.csduppsala.uu.se/

Feel free to contact us regarding any aspect of the course. Preferably contact us by email

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Cecilia Esbjörnsson: cecilia.esbjornsson@csduppsala.uu.se
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CEMUS Website: http://www.csduppsala.uu.se/cemus/

We do not have specified office hours, so please contact us by email or during class if you would like to meet in person.
Information will be posted on the webpage so make sure to visit it regularly, preferably once a week to check that there are no changes in the schedule. Visit our course page at: http://cemusstudent.se/sdswe/

Course Structure

The course consists of informative and engaging lectures as well as seminars. In interactive seminars, we will take a closer look at the issues and topics brought up during lectures and in the literature. The classes will take place on Thursday evenings, with occasional variations, and one Saturday (see the online schedule for specific times as well as changes) and are mandatory attendance. All lectures and seminars require that you are well prepared.
As the course progresses, you will prepare and present a final project as part of a group. More information about the final paper, as well as the seminar tasks and sessions, will be presented in class and posted on the course website.

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course the aim is for you to be able to:

- Account for different actors’ perspective on sustainable development in Sweden, and critically discuss their different definitions of and indicators of sustainable development;

- Account for and critically discuss the origin and development of the Swedish sustainability discourse, and conflicting conceptions of Sweden as a world leader within the sustainability field;
• Account for what characterizes Swedish work and Swedish initiatives for sustainable development at the local, regional and international level;

• Critically relate to and evaluate Swedish actors’ visions and solutions that aims at a sustainable future, and their different strategies to achieve a sustainable society in a global context.

Examination

The course is pass/fail. You cannot attain any higher grade than pass (which translates to C in the International system). Records will show that this is the highest grade possible. All your work will be submitted electronically on our course page on studentportalen.uu.se.

In order to pass this course, you need to...

Active Participation in Lectures
We expect you to be active and inquisitive during lectures (and seminars). In order to do this you need to come prepared beforehand by reading the literature. During the lectures we suggest that you practice active note taking which will become useful for your reference during seminars and question sessions [see below]. Each session will require your participation in engaging your peers and the lecturers in discussion. A minimum of 75% attendance to all sessions is required to pass the course.

Seminars
The seminars are compulsory and you also need to turn in seminar tasks and prepare ahead of time. There will be a total of 3 seminars (+ 3 mini seminars). If for some reason you miss a seminar you will have to make up for this by handing in an extra task. The extra task will be more demanding and focused on your individual effort and contribution than the seminars included in the regular schedule.

Case Study Report
The case study report is your final assignment in this class. This report will exemplify your understanding of critical thought on topics of sustainable development within Sweden. You’ll begin to work with the case study quite early into the course as a group project. With this report you get the opportunity to look into topics of your own interest that might not have been covered by the lectures. However, aspects from the lectures should still remain relevant.

Literature

You will be responsible for reading books and articles in preparation for each session. There is a reading schedule available on both the course portal and studentportalen.uu.se. You will find electronic copies of all the articles you need to read in folders on studentportalen. Additionally, the following books will be used throughout the course:

Case Study Research: Design and Methods, 4th or 5th edition (By Robert K. Yin) will be an invaluable tool to help you with your final project that you will be working with throughout the course. You will read this book up until Seminar 1.

Use and Misuse of Nature’s Resources: An Environmental History of Sweden (By Naturvårdsverket) provides a look into many different areas where sustainability can be implemented and gives more fact based information on the current state of such topics as forestry, energy production, agriculture, etc. in Sweden. You will read this book up until Seminar 2.
Course Management

Course Coordinators

Cecilia Esbjörnsson is from the south of Sweden, but has lived in Uppsala since 2005. Apart from having studied several CEMUS courses, she also has a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology with Environmental Studies as secondary subject and a Master’s degree in Sustainable Development. At the moment she has just started a new Bachelor’s program in Cultural Entrepreneurship.

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Sanna Barrineau is from Fairfax, Virginia in the United States and has lived in Uppsala since 2011. After studying international affairs in the States, she completed her MSc in Environment, Politics and Globalisation at King’s College London. Sanna joined CEMUS both as a student and a coordinator in 2012.

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Work Group

Malin Östman works as an educational coordinator at Cemus. She is coordinating Cemus Masters courses within the program for Sustainable Development.

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Elisa Maria Lopez is a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology at Uppsala University. Her research interests focus on urban relocation, uncertainty, mining, indigenous movements, political ecology, and Sweden. The topic of her PhD thesis is on mining and the relocation of the city of Kiruna.

Kjell Hansen is a senior lecturer in Rural Development at SLU. His research interests lie primarily in the relations between the rural local conditions and the impact of policy decisions, as well as in issues related to social sustainability.

Rebecca Lawrence is a research fellow at Stockholm University. Rebecca’s research is interdisciplinary and focuses on the intersection of Indigenous claims with governments and the private sector. Her current research projects concern relations between the mining industry and local/Indigenous communities in Sweden, Finland, Norway, South Africa and Australia.

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 cooperation with two local organizations.

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Daniel Mossberg is Director of Studies at CEMUS. Daniel has studied Art History, Practical Philosophy, Environment- and Development Studies, and Cultural Anthropology.

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Clare Hart-Davis and Oliva Ahltorp joined the work group this year as student representatives from the previous semester’s course. Clare is an exchange student from Australia and Olivia is a Swedish student.

CEMUS & Geocentrum

Practical Information
CEMUS is open between 09.00 am and 3.30 pm, Mondays to Fridays, from the indoor entrance. If you want to study in the library during other hours of the day or during weekends, you can get a keycard. To get a keycard, go
to the janitors' office next door to the library in Geocentrum. There is no access to CEMUS from the outside of the building without a key card.

In CEMUS' multispaces/library you will find literature related to environment and development issues, magazines, and journals. You can also have a cup of coffee from the nearby coffee shop, hang out 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.

You can use our facilities for organizing open meetings, conferences, seminars, movie shows, lectures, etc.

**CEMUS education**

The education at CEMUS focuses on a comprehensive understanding of the challenges of sustainable development. This demands innovative teaching methods and an interdisciplinary approach. Since its inception, CEMUS courses have been run by students with the continual support of work groups and educational staff, whose members include professors and researchers from Uppsala’s two universities.

CEMUS' primary point of departure and approach is based on what has become known as "education for sustainable development". Through democratic, grounded and extensive work modes, this teaching method strives to motivate students to heighten their critical thinking skills, as well as encourage responsibility and engagement in the issues of sustainable development.

The courses at CEMUS also function as a complement to the universities' specialized and disciplinary education. CEMUS is constantly widening its scope to address the most current debates in our society, as well as requests from students. Around 800 students per year take part in one of the many different courses offered at CEMUS.

**About CEMUS**

CEMUS has as its goal to advance and inspire education and knowledge within the field of environment and development studies, as well as other boundary transcending issues connected to sustainable development.

CEMUS began as an 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 (CSD Uppsala) in conjunction with Uppsala University and SLU, Sweden's agricultural university.

The coordinators at CEMUS help create and run CEMUS courses, at both entry and advanced levels, and they work in close collaboration with well-respected teachers and researchers from both universities.

**CEMUS's Roots**

CEMUS's Roots is the name of CEMUS's 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's different work groups and the board of CSD Uppsala. CEMUS Roots brings up issues concerning the future of CEMUS's activities, organizes seminars and more. Visit [http://roots.cemusstudent.se](http://roots.cemusstudent.se) for news and ongoing initiatives, and how to get involved.

**CEMUS Research Forum (CEFO)**

CEMUS research school (CEFO) offers an interdisciplinary environment with doctoral courses and seminars for PhD students and researchers from all disciplines at Uppsala University and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Find out more at [http://www.cemus.uu.se/cefo/index_eng.html](http://www.cemus.uu.se/cefo/index_eng.html)
CEMUS Forum
CEMUS Forum serves as a forum for student-initiated activities and contact with society at large. The meeting place offers students a chance to start projects, distributes a newsletter with a calendar of local, national, and international events, organizes seminars, and has a library with a wide range of books and magazines with focus on environment and development issues.

CEMUS is also active via Facebook and twitter:
http://www.facebook.com/cemuscsduppsala
http://twitter.com/CEMUSCSDUPPSALA

Other Courses at CEMUS

Fall semester 2014

- Global Sustainability Science Course Package, 30 ECTS
- Global Challenges & Sustainable Futures, 7.5 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 detmoderna 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

Spring semester 2015

- Applied Sustainability Science Course Package, 30 ECTS
- Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainable, 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
- Människan och maskinen – perspektiv på teknik, makt och samhälle 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

Summer 2015

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

Visit us at Villavägen 16 in Uppsala
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Welcome and good luck with your studies!
Cecilia & Sanna