

Urban Agriculture - Permaculture and Local Food Systems, 7.5 hp

At the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS)

Course Information Summer 2014



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Course Overview

What does the current agricultural structure look like on a global scale and can it be sustained for the foreseeable future? What issues will play a role in determining sustainable food systems? How can urban landscapes increase their production of food, and to what extent is urban agriculture necessary? What is permaculture, and how can it be applied in local/global contexts in order to improve food distribution, soil qualities, social networks and economies?

These are some of the questions and issues which the course will explore through engaging lectures and relevant literature. In addition, there will be practical workshops, seminars, discussions, documentary showings as well as study visits in and around Uppsala and Stockholm.

The course aims to give you the theoretical knowledge surrounding the issues of local and global food security, and in turn act as a springboard for the practical implementation of ideas.

Welcome to Urban Agriculture - Permaculture and Local Food Systems!

Olivia and Christopher

Learning Outcomes

The course syllabus is structured in accordance with Uppsala University's academic criteria. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Account for key concepts and theories concerning sustainable urban agriculture, permaculture and local food systems;
- Critically review and relate to different examples of urban agriculture in a global context;
- Apply relevant theories and examples concerning sustainable urban agriculture in a local context.

The lectures, seminars, excursions and examination are directed towards these learning outcomes. The type of instruction is based on active student participation and critical thinking through interaction with guest lecturers, seminar coordinators and students, and through meeting different actors in the field during study excursions.

Contact Information

Feel free to contact us regarding any aspect of the course. Preferably contact us by email, or in person during lectures.

Important information and schedule changes will be posted on the course webpage, so please check it regularly. Lectures and seminars will take place in various locations, so please also check the schedule and website for updates.

Course webpage:

<http://cemusstudent.se/uag/>

Course email:

uag@csduppsala.uu.se

Christopher Wegweiser:

christopher.wegweiser@csduppsala.uu.se

Olivia Ahltop

olivia.ahltop@csduppsala.uu.se

Examination

Note that the course is pass/fail. You cannot attain any higher grade than pass (which translates to C in the international ECTS system). Your transcript records will show that this is the highest grade possible.

To pass the course you need...

Lecture Attendance

You are required to attend a minimum of 75% of the lectures. This does not include study visits and documentary showings. Please sign the Attendance Sheet every day.

Seminars

Attendance and active participation in the seminars are compulsory. There will be a total of 3 seminars. For each seminar there will be a mandatory preparation or reflection task to complete. If for some reason you miss a seminar you will have to complete an additional writing 'make-up' task. Instructions for the seminars, make-up tasks and assignments will be given in class and will also be available on the course homepage.

Assignments

As the course progresses, you will be required to complete two assignments. Further information about the assignments will be provided via email and on the course website.

Please submit both assignments to this email address: uag.uu@analys.orkund.se

Your assignments will then be checked for plagiarism before being assessed. Uppsala University has a strict policy concerning plagiarism, so please make sure you are familiar with the requirements. More information can be found in the Urkund plagiarism handbook:

http://www.orkund.se/EN/documents/Orkund_plagiarism_handbook.pdf

Literature

Compulsory Literature

The course literature is an integral part of the course and is intended to support your learning of the key themes presented during the course. There are two books which are compulsory reading, and you will be required to reference them in your assignments:

Whitefield, Patrick, 2004. *Earth Care Manual - A Permaculture Handbook for Britain and other Temperate Climates*. East Meon: Permanent Publications.

Roberts, Paul, 2008. *The End of Food*. London: Bloomsbury.

Supporting Literature

The following books are recommended reading for completing the assignments as well as for further developing your understanding of the course subjects. It is not expected for you to read all of these, but some of them, or parts of some of them may be helpful or of interest to you.

Aranya, 2012. *Permaculture Design: A Step by Step Guide*. East Meon: Permanent Publications.

Holmgren, David, 2002. *Permaculture, Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability*. Hepburn, Victoria: Holmgren Design Services.

Pinkerton, Tamzin and Hopkins, Rob, 2009. *Local Food - How to Make it Happen in Your Community*. Totnes: Green Books Ltd.

Jeavons, John, 2012. *How to Grow More Vegetables: And Fruits, Nuts, Berries, Grains and Other Crops Than You Ever Thought Possible on Less Land Than You Can Imagine*. New York: Ten Speed Press.

Gunnarsson, Elisabeth Svalin, 2012. *I trädgårdsmästarens spår: Kunskap för en hållbar trädgård*. Stockholm: Natur & Kultur.

In the CEMUS library there are two copies of the compulsory books, and one copy of each of the supporting books. They are for reference use in the library, but are not available to be loaned out.

Course Reader:

In attempt to limit student costs, as well as paper usage, there will be no hard-copy course reader. Instead, publications and articles relevant to lectures will be posted as pdf's or website links on the course website (<http://cemusstudent.se/uag/>).

These articles are highly relevant to the lectures topics and are considered compulsory reading. You will be required to reference some of the articles in your assignments.

In addition to the academic articles, there is also a selection of podcasts and videos, and the links will be provided on the course homepage. These are suggested resources which we think you will

enjoy and will support your learning, but they are not compulsory.

It is encouraged and recommended for students to begin reading the course literature before the course starts.

Study Excursions

In the course there will be several field trips, which will show examples of urban agriculture, permaculture in practice, and local food systems. Attendance on these field trips is not always compulsory, but we strongly recommend you come to all of them. They will provide ideas, inspiration, and will also be a lot of fun. For the field trips in Uppsala, we will be travelling to the locations by bicycle, or public transport if you do not have a bicycle. For the excursion to Stockholm we will hire a coach. You will receive more information about the field trips in class and on the course homepage.

Course Management

The two Course Coordinators for Urban Agriculture - Permaculture and Local Food Systems 2013 are Olivia Ahltop and Christopher Wegweiser.

Christopher Wegweiser has a bachelor's degree in International Business from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University. Christopher is the founder and the former chairperson of Flogsta Food, the non-profit organization and garden in the Flogsta low-house student housing area. He has also spent two months working on Koster Trädgårdar, a permaculture garden in Sydkoster, Sweden. He has two permaculture design certificates and has written his thesis as a feasibility study on the establishment of a permaculture garden in Uppsala. His newest projects at Valegården and in Ulleråker are the applications of this idea. Together with friend and course lecturer Martin Gustafsson he has held several 2-day 'introduction to permaculture' courses in Uppsala.

christopher.wegweiser@csduppsala.uu.se

Olivia Ahltop has taken several sustainability related courses at Cemus. She is very interested in permaculture as a tool for creating change and building resilience, and she has taken the 2-day 'Introduction to Permaculture' course, as well as 'Urban Agriculture - Permaculture and Local Food Systems'. Olivia is new to the work as a course coordinator. She has stepped into the role with new inspiration and ideas to be put in practice.

olivia.ahltop@csduppsala.uu.se

Supervisory Work Group

The supervisory work group is responsible for overseeing the course to ensure its content, literature and examinations meet Uppsala University/SLU academic standards. Along with the course coordinators, the following people are part of the work group:

Daniel Mossberg is Director of Studies at CEMUS. Daniel has studied Art History, Practical

Philosophy, Environment and Development Studies, and Cultural Anthropology.

daniel.mossberg@csduppsala.uu.se

Isak Stoddard is Educational Coordinator and Acting Programme Director 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 local farmers and NGO's.

isak.stoddard@csduppsala.uu.se

Daniel Bergquist, PhD has a PhD in human geography from Uppsala University, specializing in applied environmental impact assessment and systems ecology. Since 2008, he has been affiliated to CSD Uppsala as a researcher and lecturer engaged in issues broadly relating to sustainable development. He has conducted extensive field studies on coastal aquaculture (in Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Chile), marine resources management (Chile), sustainable biofuel production (Brazil), and urban agriculture (Brazil), always from an interdisciplinary sustainability perspective. Between 2008-2010 he held a post-doc scholarship from the Swedish research council (Vetenskapsrådet) for exploring the potential of urban agriculture for sustaining urban life beyond peak oil, based on case studies of community gardens in Rio de Janeiro. He has also been visiting scholar at the School of Food Engineering (FEA), State University of Campinas (Unicamp), Brazil, and at the Center for Environmental Policy, Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences at University of Florida, USA. Currently, he works as university lecturer at the department of social and economic geography at Uppsala University, where he teaches sustainable development and geography in a range of courses. He is also a certified permaculture designer experimenting with sustainable farming practices in his home garden.

daniel.bergquist@kultgeog.uu.se

Teresa Anderson

(to be updated)

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Marian Voigt

Marian Voigt has a bachelor's degree in engineering and is currently finishing his Master in Sustainable Development at Uppsala University and SLU. For his Master's thesis project he is researching the meanings attached to food and in connection to sustainable food consumption. Marian is providing Uppsala with delicious local produced sourdough bread and is a founding member of Flogsta Food-Cooperative, which works to constantly strengthen the relationship between consumers and local food producers. Marian has a permaculture design certificate and is an active user of permaculture principles during his gardening and beyond.

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About Cemus

Aim and History

Centre for Environment and Development Studies (Cemus) in Uppsala is a forum for students, researchers and university teachers with an interest in environment, development and other global issues. The aim of the centre is to give interdisciplinary courses and seminars, and to stimulate contacts between students, researchers, and society at large.

Cemus was initiated by students in the early nineties and the first undergraduate course was held in 1992. Ten years later, Cemus research school offered its first doctoral course. The education and many of the activities at the centre are today still mainly run by students and PhD students in collaboration with researchers and teachers at Uppsala University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). For more information visit the Cemus website - www.cemusstudent.se.

Since 2007 Cemus is a part of the larger entity 'Centre for Sustainable Development Uppsala' (CSD).

Cemus Education

Cemus education deals with a wide range of global and local issues in the environment and development field. The courses discuss complicated topics like: What kind of Sustainable Development do we want? How could Climate Change and Peak Oil transform society and civilization? What is fair in a global community? What values make up the foundations of our beliefs and worldviews?

Cemus is offering the following courses in the **Fall semester 2014**:

- Hållbar utveckling A, 30 hp
- Människan och naturen, 7.5 hp
- Global miljöhistoria, 7.5 hp
- Klimatet, energin och det moderna samhället (campus- och distanskurs), 7.5 hp
- Global Challenges & Sustainable Futures, 7.5 hp
- Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Development in Sweden, 7.5 hp
- The Global Economy – Environment, Development and Globalization, 15 hp
- Sustainable Development - Project Management and Communication, 15 hp

Cemus Doctoral 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.csduppsala.uu.se/research/cefo/>

Cemus Forum

The scope of the CEMUS model is not limited to the classroom setting. CEMUS Forum organizes open lectures, an annual conference on education for sustainable development, film showings, discussions, workshops and a variety of other events. Much of this work is done in collaboration with students, in the envisioning, planning and delivery stages. These events are intended to attract not only current university staff and students, but also alumni, government officials, interested individuals and organizations. The aim of this work is to extend the educational core of the center by bridging the gaps between the theoretical and the practical, the young and the old and the academic and non academic worlds, as well as to create a meeting place for people interested in interdisciplinary education and sustainable solutions.

CEMUS Forum also reaches out to other organizations and initiatives for collaboration. We are currently working with actors such as Folkuniversitetet, Uppsala municipality and the Department of Education at Uppsala University (to name a few), with projects like Framtidsakademin and Gymnasieakademin, to create learning spaces for Sustainable Development outside the walls of Uppsala University and SLU. A very exciting new project is a UN initiated platform for transformative learning initiatives in Uppsala, a so called “Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development.” This will continue to be developed within the Uppsala Centre for Sustainable Development in collaboration with a wide collection of societal actors and organizations. The work to establish the platform will continue throughout 2013, and student involvement is welcome.

The CEMUS Forum also works as a launching pad for student project ideas. Support can be given in the form of people to bounce ideas off of, access to a broad contact network, use of a variety of venues, help with marketing campaigns/advertising and economic support. Projects are initiated through a dialogue with Forum staff, and in close collaboration with Cemus Roots. <http://www.csduppsala.uu.se/forum/cemus/>

Practical Information about Cemus

Contact Cemus

Visit us at Villavägen 16 in Uppsala

Telephone: 018-471 72 94

www.cemusstudent.se

info@csduppsala.uu.se

Cemus

The Cemus library is a place where you can meet other people, study and hang out. On a billboard in the library, and in a newsletter, you can find out about Cemus related issues, what’s going on in Uppsala, in Sweden and in the rest of the world. To receive the newsletter, sign up at <http://www.csduppsala.uu.se/cemus/newsletter/>.

Information Resources and Works of Reference

In the Cemus library you can find course literature and other relevant literature in the field of environment and sustainable development studies. The library holds literature related to the Cemus courses. Some literature can be lent. Specific course literature is available to read there, however it is not available to take home as a loan. For information or suggestions speak to someone in Cemus or send an email to info@csduppsala.uu.se.

Warm welcome and good luck with your studies!

Olivia & Christopher
