



RIO + 20 – Final Assignment Spring 2012 (2 parts)

This summer the UN will host the meeting RIO + 20. This meeting is held 20 years after the original meeting in Rio – one of the first occasions where issues concerning Sustainable Development were discussed within this framework.

This spring, part of your examination will focus on this upcoming conference and *The Green economy*, which is the conference theme.

You will be assigned groups (at the beginning of the semester), and in these groups you will prepare for a role-play. You will also hand in an individual written assignment that relates both to Rio + 20, your personal experiences and the course book “Debt – 5000 years after” by David Graber.

See instructions for these 2 parts of the final assignment below. Please do not hesitate to ask me if you have any questions or concerns.

Role play:

Begin by researching and finding out how the process of the meeting/conference is structured and which questions will be discussed. What is the history of UN- meetings relating to Sustainable Development and these issues?

Research and find out your assigned country’s standpoint when it comes to Rio + 20 and the issues that will be discussed there relating to this country. There are many pages online with information; a good idea is also to look at a video clip from an old UN conference to get an idea on how the meeting is held. From the webpage:

Objective of the Conference

The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges

Themes of the Conference

The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

You are going to play representatives from a country going to the Rio + 20 meeting and we will have a mock-meeting the final days of the course (see schedule). Thus it is important that you



really get in to your roles and seriously research what your chosen countries might be interested in in relation to the meeting.

More information on the details of the role play will be handed out/posted later on this semester but **please start with this assignment as soon as you have been assigned your groups!**

Written task:

In addition to attending and playing in the role play you shall also turn in a written assignment INDIVIDUALLY. This must be handed in by May 25th to malin.ostman.uu@analys.urkund.se The paper should be minimum 3000 words and maximum 5000 words long. All the questions should be answered.

Instructions:

- **As an individual, what is your own opinion concerning the themes of the Rio + 20 conference and your actual home country's views in relation to the conference? Use at least 3 references from the official conference sites.**
- **Use the book by David Graber and give at least three examples using references on how the book might relate to the conference theme.**
- **If you could arrange a big conference (such as a UN-conference) what theme would you choose and why?**