

Instructions for Assignments and Individual Project
Sustainable Design course summer 2012
Online-distance course

Instructions for assignments and the individual projects

General information

ASSIGNMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

During the course you will have the following assignments: 1 E-meeting, 1 Project Assignment Halfway report, give feedback on one of your peer's halfway reports, 1 Reflection and 1 Project Assignment Final report. The purpose of the course assignments is to help you relate, analyze and discuss about the content of the course. **NOTE: ALL TASKS ARE MANDATORY FOR COURSE COMPLETION.**

CREDITS

The course is worth 7.5 hp (equal to 5 weeks of full-time studies), which will be awarded when the course (and all assignments) is completed. The size of the Project Assignments is 4.5 credit points, while the size of the submission of your Reflection and preparations before and participation in the E-meeting is 3 credit points.

FORMAT OF ASSIGNMENTS

Format will be one of the requirements that you should meet in your assignments, so please take care of the following:

- **Clarity**; the language must be clear, understandable and at a sufficiently high university standard. The questions must be answered entirely. Make sure the reader understands when you express your own ideas and opinions, and when you refer to sources and other people's opinions or research.

- **Coherence:** Try to keep your paper short, concise and coherent. You might need to rewrite the answer several times to get a clear structure. As you have limited space for your written assignments, it is important with a clear focus and structure in order to make room for a complete answer.
- **Argumentation;** if argumentation is part of the assignment, the arguments must be relevant, important and adequate. Support your arguments and basic facts with references.
- **Academic;** research methods and resources must be anchored in scientific and analytical sources.
- **References;** references must be properly used and done according to the instructions above throughout the paper. For references use in text citation and list references at the end of the assignment (use Oxford or Harvard System). Include page numbers in your references.
- Write your assignments in single space, size 12 font Times New Roman. Always write your name on the first page of your paper. For the file name write:
- Lastname_Firstname_AssignmentName

ASSIGNMENTS & INSTRUCTIONS

On the following pages, we have listed and explained the assignments for the Sustainable Design summer course. Deadlines are published as well so you will be aware of all of them. **You will not receive reminders of deadlines.**

When submitting an assignment you should upload it in Studentportalen (as **PDF**).

Assignments can not be uploaded / submitted in the course site.

Don't forget to name each assignment correctly: Lastname_Firstname_AssignmentName

1. E-Meeting On Wednesday 13th of June, 2012

The e-meeting will help you to build upon your oral communication skills and knowledge base of the course contents by having you discuss and communicate your ideas with fellow classmates.

To prepare for the e-meeting, reflect, and be prepared with notes, on the following questions that relate to the themes of module 1 & 2:

- 1. How do the 2 theories of Biomimicry and Cradle to Cradle differ from each other? Is it possible to combine the concepts of both theories? How would you envision this?**
- 2. When looking at LCA as a methodology for evaluating sustainability what are the pros and cons? Are elements lacking in terms of sustainability? What would you do to change/improve this method? When is it appropriate to utilize LCA?**

Instructions for the e-meeting:

On Wednesday from 17:15 till 20:00 we will have an e-meeting.

- Select/register for which group and at which time you will participate through Studentportalen (www.studentportalen.uu.se)
- You need to check to be sure that your video camera and microphone work beforehand. You should also be sure to have headphones to reduce feedback from speakers.
- We will be using Adobe Connect for this meeting and the link will be available after you have chosen your group (as well as further instructions).
- You will then login as guests

2. Project Assignment Halfway report - deadline: June 18th 2012

In this report you will complete Part 1 & 2 of the project. Size: 4 pages for the Halfway report (before reference list). This assignment will also be accompanied by a peer review, which means that you will get feedback on your report from a classmate and that you will be commenting on another classmates work (more instructions below).

Instructions:

You will first choose a 'design' that you wish to analyze for sustainability. (*This design could be an object, a landscape, a park/ park system, a building, a garden etc.*)

Part 1

1. Include an image of your chosen design for analysis (no bigger than ½ page).
2. Briefly describe why you have chosen to analyze this design and motivate your selection.
3. Formulate the purpose of this design (i.e. why was it created, what function does it fill, who is it for?)
4. Based on this design, you will answer the following Research Questions: A) Is ___ design sustainable or not sustainable? B) Then what makes it sustainable or what can make it more sustainable?). You are encouraged to formulate further questions to make the research more specific.

Part 2

1. What should you be specifically evaluating within your design in order to determine its' sustainability?
2. Reflect on LCA and EIA as methods for evaluating environmental impacts. Discuss which (if either) methods would apply to your design evaluation for sustainability. Can you identify a different method that should be used for evaluating the design, if so describe and how it can be utilized. (*Discuss whether or not it might be possible to use either method as a framework for measuring the social/cultural impacts of a design and specifically your design*)

As you have limited space for your written assignments, it is important to maintain a clear focus and structure in order to make room for a complete answer. Please note that you might need to rewrite the answer several times to get a clear structure.

3. Peer-feedback: deadline June 20th 2012

Read the assigned paper and give concrete feedback on what you think are the best parts in the paper and areas where it can be improved. Use the following questions as a starting point for your feedback:

- Is the language clear and understandable? Do you as a reader understand the main ideas and arguments that the author puts forward? Which parts of the text can be made clearer, and how?
- Does the paper have a clear focus and structure? Are there any passages that you feel are unnecessary or superfluous in relation to the main focus and arguments?
- Are there any other themes that would support the main focus and arguments and that the author would benefit from including in the paper?
- Is it clear where the author expresses her/his own ideas and opinions and when s/he is referring to other people's opinions or research? Are the arguments and basic facts supported with references?
- Are references properly used, and with page numbers?
- Describe three things in the paper that you think are really good and the author should keep.
- Give three suggestions on how the text can be improved.

The written feedback should be 1–2 pages in length, and you can also comment directly in the document. Send the feedback in writing to the author's email. CC sdesign@csduppsala.uu.se so that we can verify that you have completed this.

3. Reflection deadline: June 25th 2012

This is your chance to challenge the content as well as deepen your understanding of sustainable design by reviewing (reflecting) on the knowledge you have gained.

Instructions:

Write 1 ½ pages where you choose a minimum of 2 themes from the course content to discuss and critically evaluate. Have a minimum of 3 references (2 of them must be from the course literature).

4. Project Assignment Final report deadline: July 6th 2012

This is your final assignment and should be a continuation from your previous Project Assignment Halfway report. Here you will continue with parts 3 & 4 of the project and will turn in your final draft.

Instructions:

This should include your parts 1 & 2 as well as parts 3 & 4 in one document and should include editing of parts 1 & 2 based on feedback received.

8 pages for the Project assignment final report (before references [*minimum of 12 references, from which minimum 6 must be from course literature*])

Part 3

1. Research your design to determine sustainability, based upon what you have determined is an appropriate method from part 2. From this research you should be able to indicate whether or not your design is sustainable and provide evidence (minimum of 3 reasons) to support this.
2. From your evidences given, determine the largest factor contributing to the unsustainability of the design. Describe what effect a change to this factor would mean for the overall design. (*If you have determined that the design is sustainable what is the largest factor that contributes to its' sustainability?*)

Part 4

1. In order to make the change that you have identified as being important, what design theory should be used? Does it work to utilize one of the design theories that you have been given i.e. Biophilic design, Cradle to Cradle design, or Biomimicry? Or is there another design theory/philosophy/concept that works better? (*If*
2. Describe how the theory/philosophy/concept would be used in the premise of your design.
3. Create a conclusion for the whole paper, making sure that you address the initial research questions.
4. Create a reference (and appendix) section for the whole paper

Make-Up Assignments for Missed Meetings Deadline: June 16th 2012

In order to make up for missing the meeting on the 9th or 13th of June you will have to do the task list below (respectively) If you have missed both this means that you will have to complete both tasks.

Make-Up for the June 9th Meeting:

Write 1 ½ pages where you choose a minimum of 2 themes from the course content to discuss and critically evaluate. Have a minimum of 3 references (2 of them must be from the course literature).

Make-Up for the June 13th Meeting:

Write 2 pages where answer the reflection questions that were listed in preparation for the E-meeting (listed below)

- 1. How do the 2 theories of Biomimicry and Cradle to Cradle differ from each other? Is it possible to combine the concepts of both theories? How would you envision this?**
- 2. When looking at LCA as a methodology for evaluating sustainability what are the pros and cons? Are elements lacking in terms of sustainability? What would you do to change/improve this method? When is it appropriate to utilize LCA?**