

## **Sustainable Design – Ecology, Culture and Human Built Worlds**

### **Summer 2012**

### **Online-distance course**

*Which role does design play in the quest for sustainability? How can an interdisciplinary approach to design unlock new creativity and beauty? How could different design solutions in nature serve as a model for new human made designs? And what are the limits of human ingenuity and creative design?*

These are some of the questions we are excited to dig further into this spring semester. With inspiration from ecology and nature, and in-depth discussion of how cultural conditions define human perceptions of the environment, the course tries to reach practical conclusions on how creative design can contribute to a sustainable and inspiring world.

Welcome to the course!

*Jesse Anderson & Maria Cecilia Brito*

### **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: [sdesign@csduppsala.uu.se](mailto:sdesign@csduppsala.uu.se)

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### **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

#### **CEMUS Course Portal**

All the course content will be available in the Cemus Course Portal. There you will find links to the literature and online lectures that you will follow during the whole course.

Here you will also find the schedule, information for the mandatory meeting, e-meeting, examinations as well as notifications. So be sure to check the course page regularly.

Check the course portal website: <http://www.cemusstudent.se>

Click on the link “Courses” and choose “Summer 2012”, there you find the Sustainable Design – Ecology, Culture and Human Built Worlds (distance)

<http://cemusstudent.se/sdesign-distance/>

#### **Inspirational lectures and mandatory meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

This meeting will be held at Uppsala University. Preliminary time is from 12 pm – 5pm. Information about location will be posted later on the course portal. At the meeting we will introduce the main course themes, introduce the technical tools that we use for the rest of the course, and have several keynote speakers. Bring your own lunch!



## Studentportalen and registration

Visit this website for information about registration and student account.

<https://studentportalen.uu.se/portal/portal/uusp>

Studentportalen will also be used for administration of tasks, groups and other things, so if you don't have an account already it is important that create one as soon as possible. If you haven't gotten your login information, there is information about support in this website. For questions/problems regarding Studentportalen, please contact their support directly through email [helpdesk@uu.se](mailto:helpdesk@uu.se) or phone 018-471 78 90.

## CEMUS' EDUCATIONAL MODEL

Cemus originated as a student initiative in the early 1990's and have 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 project leaders 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.

## Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, the student should be able to;

- account for different theoretical and applied design principles and models for sustainable design;
- account for and critically relate to sustainable design from an ethical, cultural and historical perspective;
- critically review different design solutions ecological, social and economical consequences, risks, possible uses and functions in the work for a sustainable development;
- independently apply a specific design theory on a specific challenge within the sustainability field.

## LEARNING PROCESS AND COURSE STRUCTURE

The course consists of two parallel processes - one theoretical and one practical. The theoretical part consists of literature and online video-lectures where you will become familiar with the elementary concepts and perspectives within the area of sustainable design. The practical part consists of an individual project, in which you will get an insight into how it is to understand and assess sustainability within design.

## Assessment

Sustainable Design course is worth 7.5 credits and the grades granted are Pass or Fail. In order to pass the course, the following criterions will have to be completed:

1. **Mandatory meeting on June 9th.** Attendance to the introductory lecture in Uppsala is a requirement to pass the course. If you can't attend, please check the CEMUS course portal ([www.cemusstudent.se](http://www.cemusstudent.se)) for instructions for a supplementary assignment and important course information.
2. **E-meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>.** Online meeting and discussion in groups.
3. **Individual project.** The main task in the course is the individual project that will consist in 2 parts: Half-way report and Final report.
4. **Reflection.** A written review of the literature and course content.

## Reading

For this course, you may pick one (1) book out of the following:

- **Sustainable by Design- Explorations in theory and practice** by Stuart Walker (2006) (269:- on adlibris.com/se)
- **The Green Imperative- Ecology and Ethics in Design and Architecture** by Victor Papanek (1995) (188:- on adlibris.com/se)
- **Biophilic Cities** by Timothy Beatley (2010) (220:- on adlibris.com/se)
- **Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature** by Janine M. Bnyus (2002) (116:- on adlibris.com/se)
- **Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things** by William McDonough & Michael Braungart (2010) (80:- on adlibris.com/se)
- **Teamwork and Participatory Design** edited by Ken Mathiasen (2010) (172:- on adlibris.com/se)

All 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 borrowing.

## ABOUT CEMUS

Cemus Education 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 ca 35 employees, most of whom are students hired as course coordinators, and gives ca 25 courses. The 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.

## 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.

Cemus offers both smaller part time courses and full time studies. 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 30 credits courses offered at Cemus.

## **This year CEMUS gives the following courses:**

### **Summer 2012**

- Urban Agriculture – Permaculture and Local Food systems, 7.5 hp
- Sustainable Design - Ecology, Culture and Human Built Worlds, 7.5hp (distance)

### **Autumn semester 2012**

- Hållbar utveckling A, 30 hp
- Människan och naturen, 7.5 hp
- Global miljöhistoria, 7.5 hp
- Global Environmental History (distance), 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
- Global Sustainability Science Course Package, 30 hp
- Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards global sustainabilities (distance), 7.5 hp

### **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. For more about Cemus Forum talk to Sara Andersson or go to [www.csduppsala.uu.se](http://www.csduppsala.uu.se).

### **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 round 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, offers assisting thesis tutors, organizes international field trips and offers a possibility of financing research trips. Cefo is also developing international networks for doctoral students and researchers and is 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.

### **More Information**

Cemus is open between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm, Mondays to Fridays. If you want to use the computers in the computer room 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. 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 to [info@cemus.uu.se](mailto:info@cemus.uu.se) for more information and help.