



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



Course Information

Technology, Power & the Future of Humanity

Online distance course spring 2015



Welcome to the online distance course **Technology, Power and the Future of Humanity!**

In the course, we will look at different perspectives on technology, society and sustainable development. We will explore questions such as: In what ways can technological innovations contribute in the work with and for sustainability? What opportunities and risks are associated with emerging technologies? Who controls technology and how does technology affect power? What are the possibilities and limitations with technological solutions to sustainability problems? Which future scenarios are probable and desirable?

Jakob Grandin
Educational Coordinator CEMUS

Daniel Mossberg
Director of Studies CSD/CEMUS
Acting Programme Director CEMUS

The course website with the course content and all course related information is available at <http://www.cemusstudent.se/tpfh/>. If you have any questions that are not answered there, please email Jakob at: jakob.grandin@csduppsala.uu.se

Learning Outcomes

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

- analyse different views on the role of technology in society, the relationship between technology and sustainable development, and how individual human beings influence and are influenced by different technologies;
- apply conceptual, analytical and ethical tools to understand the role of technology in individual as well as collective meaning making processes;
- critically review different technologies, the use and development of technology and its consequences from a power perspective, and methods for risk assessment and evaluation of these consequences.

The structure and process of the course

The online distance course Technology, Power and the Future of Humanity is based on an online series of video and audio lectures, course books and other allocated readings as well as written assignments and online seminar discussions. The lectures are mostly independent from the literature and the other course material, but relates to the key themes of each part. The aim is that the online lectures, literature and other course material combined with the seminars, reflections and final report will allow for new, exciting approaches and syntheses.

The course is an online distance course and runs at a 25% study pace during the fall semester. It is worth 7.5 ECTS credits. The course consists of 6 parts:

Part 1 | 19 January – 23 January: Introduction to Sustainability and Technology

Part 2 | 24 January – 15 February: Technology in Society and Everyday Life: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Part 3 | 16 February – 8 March: Gender, Power & Technology

Part 4 | 9–29 March: Emerging Technologies and Risks

Part 5 | 30 March – 19 April: Living after the Future – Visions, Narratives and Transformation

Part 6 | 20 April – 5 June: Individual Final Paper on Technology, Power and the Future of Humanity

Examination and grading

The grades allocated for this course are pass/fail. In order to pass the course, you must meet the following requirements:

- Active participation at the two course meetings in Uppsala (January 23rd & May 29th)
- Active participation in 4 online seminars. To pass the course, each student needs to participate actively in the online seminars. In order to participate, you need access to a computer and a headset with a microphone. Before each seminar you need to submit a written assignment. Detailed instructions for each seminar will be available at www.cemusstudent.se the week before the seminar. If you are unable to attend a seminar it will be possible to do a (slightly more demanding) su assignment.
- Final paper. During the course, each student will write a paper which connects to key course themes. This assignment also includes a short oral presentation of your findings. You will also get feedback on your article from other students taking the course, and provide feedback to the others. The final assignment will be introduced in April.

Please submit all documents with your name and the task as document, for example grandin-sem1.pdf. All assignments should be handed in through Uppsala University's Student Portal, www.studentportalen.uu.se.

Literature

The course literature consists of selected readings on each course module that will be posted on the course website as well as three course books:

- Nye, David E. (2006). *Technology matters: questions to live with*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. (This book is available as an ebook through Uppsala University Library: search for it at www.uu.se.)
- Edgerton, David (2006). *The shock of the old: technology and global history since 1900*. London: Profile Books
- Hulme, Mike (2014). *Can science fix climate change? a case against climate engineering*. Cambridge: Polity

Copies of the course books are available in Cemus library – but you cannot take them home with you. The selected readings for each course module will be posted along with web lectures and written assignments at the course website www.cemusstudent.se before each module starts.

Online seminars

There will be four online seminars during the course. Each seminar is 2 hours long.

February 13: Technology in Society and Everyday Life: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

March 6: Gender, Power & Technology

March 27: Emerging Technologies and Risks

April 17: Living after the Future – Visions, Narratives and Transformation

The seminars will be conducted in your seminar groups that will be formed at the course introduction in Uppsala on January 23rd. In order to participate, you need access to a computer and a headset with a microphone. Before each seminar you need to submit a written assignment. Detailed instructions for each seminar will be available at www.cemusstudent.se the week before the seminar. If you are unable to attend a seminar it will be possible to do a (slightly more demanding) written assignment.

Course meetings in Uppsala

There will be two mandatory course meetings in Uppsala during the course:

January 23: Course introduction & roll call

May 29: Project presentations and course conclusion

Course information and contact

The course website with the course content and all course related information is available at <http://www.cemusstudent.se/tpfh/>. If you have any questions that are not answered there, please email Jakob at: jakob.grandin@csduppsala.uu.se

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, the Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences. The courses at CEMUS are built in collaboration between students, course coordinators, teachers, researchers, university administrators and societal actors.

CONTACT: Isak Stoddard // isak.stoddard@csduppsala.uu.se

WEB: www.cemus.uu.se

COURSE PORTAL: www.cemusstudent.se

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/cemuscsduppsala>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/CEMUSCSDUPPSALA>

NEWSLETTER: Sign up at www.cemus.uu.se/cemusnewsletter.html

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 (ESD)". Through democratic, realistic 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' specialised 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 600 students per year take part in one or more of the many different courses offered at CEMUS.

CONTACT: Daniel Mossberg // daniel.mossberg@csduppsala.uu.se

Courses and study counselling

This year CEMUS is offering the following courses:

Spring Semester 2015

- Hållbar utveckling B, 30 hp
- Hållbar utveckling – värderingar, världsbilder och visioner, 15 hp
- Teknik, makt och mänsklighetens framtid, 7.5 hp
- Livsfilosofi och det moderna samhället, 7.5 hp

- Applied Sustainability Studies Course Package, 30 hp
- Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainable, 7.5 hp
- Sustainable Design – Ecology, Culture and Human Built Worlds, 7.5hp
- Climate Change Leadership – Power, Politics and Culture, 15 hp
- Sustainable Development - Project Management and Communication, 15 hp
- Master in Sustainable Development: Worldviews and Discourses – A Seminar Series, 5 hp
- Technology, Power and the Future of Humanity (distance), 7.5 hp

Autumn Semester 2015

- Hållbar utveckling A, 30 hp
- Människan och naturen, 7.5 hp
- Global miljöhistoria, 7.5 hp
- Klimatet, energin och det moderna samhället, 7.5 hp
- Global Sustainability Science Course Package, 30 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
- Master on Sustainable Development: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Science, 5 hp
- Master in Sustainable Development: Worldviews and Visions – A Seminar Series, 5 hp

CONTACT: Sebastian Welling, Study Councilor // susdev@geo.uu.se

Collaboration & Partnership – CEMUS Forum

The scope of the CEMUS model is not limited to the classroom setting. CEMUS Forum organizes open lectures, conferences and festivals 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. At the beginning of every semester, CEMUS Forum and CEMUS Roots (our student organisation) host a **Project Café**. This is a great way to get involved with current projects at CEMUS and share new ideas and projects you would like to make happen.

CONTACT: Malin Anderson // malin.andersson@csduppsala.uu.se

Transdisciplinary Research – CEMUS Research School

Cemus Research Forum (Cefo) is an interdisciplinary research school for PhD students that focus on broad environment and development-related issues. As a PhD student associated to Cefo you aim to participate actively in Cefo's research seminars (about 5 seminars per term) and propose activities according to your own research interest. The courses and the seminars are also open for those doctoral students that are not associated to CEFO.

CONTACT: Gloria Gallardo // gloria.gallardo@csduppsala.uu.se

CEMUS Roots

CEMUS Roots is a dynamic and self-governing student-run group, inclusive to all. It was established in order to allow students to take an active role in influencing the way that education is conducted at the center. Active participants have in the past taken on the roles of CEMUS student representatives attending university faculty and CSD board meetings. Conferences, field trips, lectures, workshops, film showings and open-panel discussions are just some of the types of events which the group has realized in the past, both with and without the cooperation of staff. In CEMUS Roots students have the opportunity to realize their visions for a more sustainable culture, and fill in the gaps of their education in ways which are most beneficial to their learning.

roots.cemusstudent.se
www.facebook.com/CEMUSRoots

Practical Information

CEMUS is open between 9:00am and 15:30pm, Mondays to Fridays. If you want to study in the library outside these hours or during weekends, you can easily get a **key card**. The key card also gives access to the main Geocentrum entrance, which is locked after 17.00 and before 08.00. To get a key card, go to the building attendant's office, next door to the library in Geocentrum. (You must be registered for a CEMUS course to get the key card.)

CEMUS Library // Lab // Lounge

In the CEMUS Library // Lab // Lounge you will find literature related to environment and development issues, magazines, journals and other publications, such as master and doctoral theses. You can also have a cup of coffee from library self-service "café", slouch in the sofas and read the course literature. **The library is a shared space for staff, coordinators and students – please respect the guidelines posted in the library to ensure a pleasant work and study environment for all.** It is possible to book the library for CEMUS-related activities, however, educational activities such as seminars have precedence. All the course literature for CEMUS courses is available there, including several shelves of reference books. These may **only be read inside the library**, and are not to be taken home. There are also books that can be borrowed through the Geocentrum Library.

Geocentrum Library

The Geocentrum Library is located down the hall from CEMUS. Copies of the CEMUS course literature are available for borrowing there. You can also go there to borrow books from the CEMUS library (only the ones that are marked with the Geo-library system).

The Language Workshop (Språkverkstaden) at Uppsala University

The Language Workshop offers consultations about written and oral presentations on an individual basis in both Swedish and English. It is free of charge and available to all students on the undergraduate and master's levels. We strongly encourage you to get in touch with the Language Workshop if you are struggling with a paper or want to improve your written English.

www.sprakverkstaden.uu.se