

Examination task II

Understanding Change: exploring paths for global sustainabilities Actors and Strategies for Change - Towards Global Sustainabilities | Spring 2015

Based on the course goals, the overall purpose of this task is for you to:

- give an account of, and be able to evaluate, the strategies, room to maneuver and limitations of different societal actors in striving toward a sustainable society;
- be able to discuss individual/actors perspectives compared to structural/system perspectives on cultural change;

Can social media change people's behaviours? CSR generate sustainable food solutions? And can art create a future for democracy?

In the course so far we have looked at many different actors and strategies for change, attempting to understand how change happens. In this task, you will have the opportunity to take a closer look at a process of change that particularly interests you.

Imagine you are a *change researcher* trying to answer the fundamental question: "*How can we create change for a more sustainable world?*"

Of course, this question is too big to answer in one short paper. Instead, we would like you to focus on a particular aspect of change that you are interested in. Your starting point can be **an actor** (for example farmers, big business or a university); a **strategy** (for example social activism, corporate social responsibility or empowering local communities); or it can be a particular **change** you would like to see (organic food in all schools, decreased segregation in Swedish cities, or a more sustainable transport system in Uppsala).

Here are a few examples of questions you may come up with:

- What are the potential and limits for permaculture in creating more sustainable and resilient local communities in the Nordic countries?
- In what ways can art increase acceptance of foreign cultures in Europe?
- How can Swedish policy action on climate change be improved?
- What role can Uppsala University play in creating sustainable cities?
- How can corporate social responsibility make Swedish businesses more sustainable?



Regardless of whether your starting point is an actor, a strategy or a change process, remember that they are all interlinked. For example, if your question is whether corporate social responsibility as a *strategy* will make Swedish business more sustainable, this is also connected the roles and room to manoeuvre of the various *actors* involved (for example, businesses, government legislators, consumers, etc.), and the *change process* in question (i.e. increased sustainability)

As support in answering this question you have the list of further readings, from which you will choose one of the books. (Find the list of books at cemusstudent.se/asc). In addition to the book of your choice, this task is an opportunity for you to weave together the literature, lectures and your own reflections so far, and integrate new material that is relevant to your topic.

We have intentionally created an assignment with a lot of freedom so that you can focus on your interest area. However, there are still some requirements, as we outlined above.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

Your paper needs to include, and will be judged on:

1. A clearly defined research question that is formulated within the frames of this assignment (Analysing the portrayal of dinosaurs in Spielbergs "Jurassic Park", however interesting, would not fit the assignment.).
2. A satisfactory attempt at answering said research question using the course book of your choice as well as relevant lectures and articles. Feel free to bring in material that has not been featured in the course so far.

Your paper will also be judged on the following:

1. **Clarity**; the language must be clear, understandable and at a sufficiently high university standard. The questions must be entirely answered.
2. **Argumentation**; if argumentation is part of the assignment, the arguments must be relevant, important and adequate.
3. **Academic**; research methods and resources must be anchored in scientific and analytical sources.
4. **References**; references must be properly used and done according to the instructions below throughout the paper.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Size: 12. Spacing: 1.5. Font: Times New Roman. Margins: 25mm
- 1600- 2000words



- Write your name on top of every page
- Name the file in the following way: `firstname.lastname2` (ex : john.galt2.doc)
- Upload the file on the *File Area* entitled “*Examination Task II – Understanding Change on Studentportalen*”
- **DEADLINE: Friday, April 24th, 23.59.**

REFERENCES

- Use the course literature and lectures to support your argument. Feel free to refer to other sources in addition to this.
- Make sure to make it very clear to the reader when you express your own ideas and opinions, and when you refer to sources and other people’s opinions or research.
- Use the Harvard or Oxford Referencing System and include page numbers. Be sure to be consistent with which reference system you use!