

Instructions for the Literature Essay on **2052**

A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years **Global Challenges & Sustainable Futures**

CEMUS | Centre for Environment and Development Studies | Autumn 2015

In the book *2052: A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years*, Jørgen Randers discusses possible situations of the future. The book covers many challenges humanity is facing today and will be dealing with during the next decades.

Critically reflect on the book and discuss based on the questions below.

- 1) In *PART 1: Background*, the author provides the context of the book, and points to five issues which he argues will largely influence how the next forty years would look like (i.e. capitalism, economic growth, democracy, intergenerational equity, and the climate). Pick one out of the five issues and critically discuss the topic using course lectures and other course literature.

Regarding your choice:

What are the most relevant messages? What points would you argue against?
What is missing?

Write minimum 600 words maximum 800 to discuss these questions. Use at least 2 clear references to the book, and 2 references to other course literature.

- 2) Discuss the overall relevance of the book *2052* to the current society and argue for your reasons:

Do you think the book enhances change at the societal or individual level? Why? or why not?

Is the way Randers presents the future useful in building a sustainable society? If yes, how? If not, what are other ways of portraying and discussing the future?

Write minimum 600 words maximum 800. Use at least 2 clear references to the book *2052*. If useful, relate to the *Collapse of the Western Civilization* and other course literature.

- 3) Many of the *Twenty Pieces of Advice* in the last chapter could be seen as reactive/adaptive advice to *live well* but, as Randers says, “*morally speaking, some of my advice is dubious*”.

Imagine that you are contacted by the editor of the book, and they are looking for students to contribute a *revised version* of the final chapter, *Chapter 12: What Should You Do?* You are in charge of writing your **Three Pieces of Personal Advice** to create a “*much better world*” (p. 353).

Make advices for a concrete target audience that may have resistances to change (e.g. business, politicians, people that are not interested in environmental issues, etc.).

Write minimum 200 words maximum 300 for each *Piece of Advice* (600 to 900 in total).

Formal Requirements

- Include a title of the assignment, course name, your name, and total number of words in the document.
- Name the file in the following way: surname.givenname2052 (example: smith.john2052.doc)
- Write minimum 1800 maximum 2500 words and upload the document (.doc or .pdf) in the **Hands-In area** on **Studentportalen**.
- Bring your draft to the Seminar 2 (**Tuesday November 10th**).
Include from the three questions of the assignment, at least:
 - 1) The issue from Part 1 that you picked and bullet points regarding the most relevant messages and what is missing from your point of view.
 - 2) Bullet point summarising your arguments on question 2)
 - 3) The title of your *Three Pieces of Personal Advice* and a short explanation of each.
- Final Deadline: Sunday, November 15th.

References

- Use Harvard Style Reference, following the guidelines on the Course Website (<http://www.web.cemus.se/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Harvard-Referencing-Handout-GCSF15.pdf>)