

# Agora - The Online Forum

## Global Challenges & Sustainable Futures

CEMUS | Centre for Environment and Development Studies | Autumn 2015

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One of the main goals of education is to learn and to share knowledge. You all have your own experience and expertise, and we would like you to use each other and share this expertise to create a great course and a better learning experience.

*Agora – The Online Forum* is a place to share your questions and comments to start the discussions with your classmates.

For *Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures 2015*, we have compiled a Course Reader that includes various articles, videos and other resources that we have carefully selected in coordination with the lecturers.

This is not a “text-book” where you are to memorize or blindly believe what’s written. Use the *Agora* not only to deepen your understanding, but also to critically reflect on the material, and prepare what you would like to discuss with the lecturer and your peers in class.

## Instructions

You will find access to the Student Portal forums that we have created for the course here: **Agora – the Online Forum** (<http://bit.ly/1he500A>)

In the main menu (left), you will find the ‘Agora’ block with all of the weeks’ Forums\* you are to participate.

After reading/watching the week’s resources on the Course Reader:

- **Post a question or comment**

Use the articles and resources from the Course Reader to introduce your question/comment, or to make arguments in reply to other people’s question. At least one of your contributions every week has to **include one reference** to the week’s assigned reading in the Course Reader.

- **Follow the discussions in the ‘Agora.’**

Bring some interesting points and questions to discuss during class. The organizing group of the Student Led Sessions will also use your contributions. (see instructions for *Student Led Sessions*)

# Submission Requirements

In order to pass this assignment you will have to meet the following requirements:

- 1) The deadline to participate in each week's Forum is **Monday before the session at 10:00 am.**

Note that the organizing group of the Student-Led Sessions will use your contributions to prepare it, so your input is valuable, especially to be on time!

- 2) Participation in at least 75% of the listed weeks' discussions (minimum 6 weeks)

Note that participating in *6 different weeks* is a requirement regardless of how active you participate within a single week.

- 3) At the end of the semester, submit a document including all of your contributions to the 'Hands In' section at the Student Portal **before the 5<sup>th</sup> of December at 10:00 am.**

- Save your document as YourName\_Agora.pdf or docx.
- For every week, include:
  - the contribution (e.g. question/comment) that included the reference to the Course Reader
  - the date you participated
  - and the lecture title of that week.
- Do a spelling and grammar check before submitting the document, and *don't forget to write your name in the document!*
- Use either footnotes or include references in the text, i.e. the Harvard System; example (Randers, 2012, pp. 23)

If you have any questions about this, feel free to contact the course coordinators through email or come and talk to us.

Good luck and enjoy our 'Agora',

Sachiko and Alejandro

\* The following is the list of lectures where you are expected to participate in the 'Agora.' This is all of the lecture sessions that are not labelled workshop or seminar.

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08/09. Intro Lecture. Global Challenges: When and why did challenges become global?

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22/09. Environmental Justice: Global Politics & the role of individuals/groups.

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06/10. Ethics and our Responsibility to Future Generations.

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20/10. How do we think about the Future?

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27/10. Futures, Sustainability and Democracy. How do we decide about the future?

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03/11. Sustainable Development Goals

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17/11. Inspirations for action. Corporate perspective.

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24/11. Inspirations for action. Municipal (government) perspective.

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01/12. Inspirations for action. Grassroots perspective

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