

Group Project

Back from the Future We Want

– Part I: Background –

The basic idea of this project

This group project runs through the latter half of the semester, forming a large part of the course. Apart from learning how to work with others in a group, the main goal is to understand different causes of sustainability challenges in a specific region while relating these to global challenges, and to come up with potential solutions to create a more sustainable region and society. This is your chance to not only apply what you learned in the course, but to learn through project work. The more you put in it, the more you will learn.

The project has three parts. Due to the purpose of this assignment, information about the following parts would be a surprise until you have submitted each part.

Now Part I: Background begins...

For Part I, each group will research about the region to familiarize with the area's background. How does the region look like today? What are the challenges that the region faces? What cultural, social, and natural resources does it hold? In addition to immersing yourself to the general picture of the region, we ask you to research and write about the topic in the region that your groups chose during the first seminar (see list below). Prepare to share and discuss about the challenges in your topic during Workshop 2..

The Region and the topics

The whole project is going to be focused in one region and, after having a general overview of this region, each group is going to specifically research on the topic you chose.

The selected region is **Managua**, the capital city of Nicaragua in Central America. Every group has one of the following topics to focus on.

1. Food production & consumption
2. Energy supply
3. Transportation & Infrastructures
4. Democracy & Participation
5. Education, Health & Culture
6. Lifestyles, Work & Consumption patterns
7. Economy & Industry (tourism, etc)
8. Water & Ecosystems
9. ICT's & Technology
10. Gender, elderly, indigenous people & other minorities
11. Security & Peace

Structure

- **Introduction and general picture of the region (approx. 300-500 words)**

Give a general description of the region. Immerse yourself in the region. Mentally "travel abroad" there and explain the main characteristics of the region. Explore how you might access the ideas, knowledge and experience of people in the region.

- **Digging a bit deeper (Each section/aspect: 600-800 words. Maximum for this point: 3000 words)**

Explore these aspects below in relation to your group's topic. Consider the following questions.

- **Natural resources and conditions**

What natural resources, climate conditions, and geographical influences does this region hold in general and especially in relation to your topic field?

- **History**

What is the historical background in relation to your topic in this region?

- **Culture and Traditions**

What does everyday life look like for people in this region? What are specific cultural factors in the region, in relation to your topic?

- Governments and Social Structures

How are societal decisions made? What are the demographics?

How is your topic influenced by and, in turn, influences social and power structures (e.g. government, institutions, local communities, cooperatives, etc.)?

• The Challenges in your topic field (600-800 words)

What kind of challenges, opportunities and unrealized potentials have you identified in your topic field? How are they a challenge or opportunity? Who thinks they are important, and who might not?

What initiatives are already in place to address these challenges and opportunities? What are the key disagreements in the local area likely to be? What are the tensions between different actors?

• Connect with the Sustainable Development Goals (300-500 words)

Which goals and targets from the SDGs are connected to your topic? How?

Remember that there are some goals and targets explicitly connected and indirectly connected. Consider both, and discuss how the present situation is in the region in relation to those goals and targets.

• Summary and Conclusion (100-200 words)

Shortly summarize your findings.

Important Dates: Deadlines, Sessions and Presentations

Group Formation – Seminar 1	October 18 th	
Submit Question about Managua	October 24 th at 17:00	Deadline
Assignment - Part 1	November 7 th at 17:00	Deadline
Workshop 2	November 8 th	
Assignment - Part 2	November 14 th at 17:00	Deadline
Workshop 3	November 15 th	
Assignment - Part 3	December 1 st at 17:00	Deadline
Final Presentations	December 6 th	
Individual Reflection	December 13 th at 17:00	Deadline

Formal Requirements

- Have a front page including title of this assignment (“Back from the Future We Want” Part 1: Background), a subtitle including the region, name of course, date and names of group members.
- The use of visual aids (pictures, images, illustrations, etc.) is highly recommended. Remember to clearly state your source if you use someone else’s image.
- Use the first word of your topic to name the file: topicname1 (example: food1.doc)
- Upload one file as a group on the Hand-In area titled *Group Project Part 1* on Studentportalen. Only one person in your group needs to upload it. **Deadline: November 7, at 17:00h.**

References

- Use minimum **8 different references** of your choice, and make a reference to all information that needs a reference. You may of course reference the same book or article several times, but this will only count as one reference. Course readers and course books could be used for inspirations and references, but you are free to use other sources as well.

To ensure the flow of the creative and engaging character of the essay, we ask you to use **Endnotes and Bibliography: Chicago citation style**. All notes should be compiled at the end of the essay, followed by a bibliography. The bibliography is a full list of sources cited in the text, sources consulted in preparing a paper and other sources thought to be of interest to the reader. It is ordered alphabetically according to the family name of the first-listed author.

For detailed structure of the citations style, please see:

<http://politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/chicago%20style%20guide.pdf>

Good luck with your research on Managua!

Sachiko and Alejandro