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Sustainable Development - Project Management and Communication Spring 2017

Individual Assignment I

The aim of this assignment is for you to critically and creatively reflect upon your background, experiences and vision for doing a project course within Sustainable Development.

The Assignment

In this assignment we want you to reflect and share your passions and your concerns as a basis to forming a concrete project idea to share with your new classmates later on. Instead of directly asking “what”, here we are more interested in the “why”. You are welcome to respond in both a creative and/or critical way. Surprise us!

The content covered here will also be used as the basis for a seminar and workshop after submission. Ultimately, it will also lay the basis for forming project teams.

Requirements

- Read the first chapter of Pollard (2008) “Finding the sweet spot”, available through Studentportalen, and the below questions. Respond to them in a creative or critical way of your choice.
- The assignment should consist of (roughly) 2-3 pages, depending on what format your reflection takes.¹
- Put your name on the top of each page. For the file name of the document, use your name plus assignment number (e.g. ‘Hugh Jackman_Individual Assignment 1’).
- Submit your assignment online on Studentportalen – you will find the link under “Submissions”. The deadline is **Sunday 29th January, 23.59**.
- This assignment is graded as **Pass/Fail**



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References

You must refer to the first chapter of Pollard (2008) “Finding the sweet spot”, available through Studentportalen, and at least three other references. Feel free to use materials from the course reader, articles, lectures, videos, course books or other appropriate material. 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 either footnotes, i.e. the Oxford system² or include the references in the text, i.e. the Harvard System; example: (Hornborg, 2001, p. 39). Make sure you are consistent with your referencing. You can find extensive guides online.

We will use the outcomes of this assignment in the **‘Individual Assignment 1 Seminar’** on **Wednesday 1st February, from 09:15-12:00**, thus it is essential that you hand this assignment in on time.

Inspiration

Read through the themes/questions below and use them as your inspiration.

Theme 1: What are your Passions and Gifts?

We want you to spend some time reflecting upon your passions and gifts. Tell us about your passions - whatever gets you excited and makes you feel alive! We also want to know about your gifts - what are you good at?

Can you see a way to connect your gifts and passions in relation to sustainable development?

Theme 2: What are your Concerns?

We also want to know about your concerns. What makes you angry, sad or happy regarding sustainability issues? What concerns you about the world on a local and/or global scale?



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Theme 3: What is Sustainable Development to you?

Sustainable development is a broad topic encompassing many issues in today's world. It can mean many different things to different people; some people have been involved in these issues for a long time, and others are new to the ideas and concerns that are brought up when we talk about sustainable development.

- a. What is sustainable development to you? In your response compare and contrast at least two existing definitions of sustainable development. What are the strengths and limitations of these definitions?
- b. On the September 25th 2015, the countries of the United Nations adopted a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda, with specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

Pick one of the Sustainable Development Goals that is related to your passions and/or concerns. Give a short description of this goal and some examples of how it is currently being addressed. How could an everyday person contribute to realising this goal?

Theme 4: Ideas for a Project?

Consider the themes discussed above. Based on your reflections, do you have any inspiration for project(s) in this course? Please describe them briefly. If you do not, list 3 keywords that you would be interested in working with. (e.g. waste, upcycling, food)

¹ Use a (readable) font to your liking. However, when there is a page number requirement our reference will be Times New Roman size 12, line spacing 1.15. Make sure that what you hand in is comparable to these standards. The page count excludes title pages and reference lists.

² Example: Hornborg (2001), The Thermodynamics of Imperialism: Towards an Ecological Theory of Unequal Exchange, in The Power of the Machine, p. 39.