

Preparation task I Seminar 1 – Oct 18th

The Collapse of Western Civilization (book discussion)
30 Day Challenges presentations
Kick-Off Group Project

1. Read and be prepared to discuss about the book *The Collapse of the Western Civilization*. Submit on Studentportalen by 17:00 before the seminar, and bring them to Seminar I (October 18th).

Answer the following questions:

- a) Why do you think this book was written? For whom? What is the main message or argument of this story/book?
- b) *“The case of Western civilization is different because the consequences of its actions were not only predictable, but predicted” (p. 1).*

What are the main reasons that they couldn't prevent what happened, according to the book? Do you agree with the view that the book presents about science, technological solutions and politics? Why, why not?

- c) What do you takeaway from this book? Why would you recommend it to a friend (or not)?

Bring a quote from the book, a scene that sticks with you, or a discussion question that you would like to share and discuss in class.

Read below for 'What is a good discussion question?'

<http://homepages.wmich.edu/~acareywe/discussion.html>

2. Bring and prepare to present your 30 Day Challenge in a creative way!

As explained in the 30 Day Challenge Instructions, submit your Creative Outcome (e.g. poster, pictures, video, sculpture, etc.) with a short explanation on Studentportalen by Monday Oct 17th at 17:00, and bring it to Seminar I to present in class. This would be “Exhibition” style – where you will stand by your Creative Outcome and other people will walk around to see and you explain.

No powerpoint presentation is allowed. If you have something to show in a digital format, be sure to bring a computer or tablet on your own, or contact us in advance. We could also help with printing out things up to A3 format if you cannot yourself.



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3. We will Kick Off the Group Project during Seminar 1.

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

We will form groups based on these topics, so choose 3 out of the above list that you would be interested in working with. The Instructions for the Group Project would be uploaded on the Course Portal before Seminar 1.



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