

Frameworks for sustainability

Actors and Strategies for Change - Towards Global Sustainable Development | Spring 2016

This assignment focuses mainly on the course goal to

- have an up-to-date, interdisciplinary understanding of the issues of sustainable development;

The assignment will also lay the foundation for the rest of the course and give you a chance to reflect upon and synthesize your learning from the first module.

Q1. Hopwood et. al show how there are many different views on sustainable development, and have mapped these groups into three main categories; *status quo*, *reform* and *transformation*. **Why do people have so many different interpretations of what sustainable development means?** Discuss what you think the main reasons are and reflect upon whether those reasons are specific (such as disagreements on facts) or more abstract (such as values, ethics, priorities or worldview). It may be useful to draw on your work with global food production to exemplify your arguments.

Q2. Imagine that a company, government agency or an NGO (non-governmental organisation) hires you as their sustainability consultant. They want to know how they can determine whether their new initiative will contribute to sustainability. How can you help them? **We would like you to devise your own principles for sustainability that can be applied to determine whether a development or initiative contributes to sustainability or not.**

What dimensions or criteria do you include? Explain your choices and briefly evaluate strengths and weaknesses of your chosen principles. (Feel free to sketch a model or design an infographic to go along with your principles!)

Resources:

We have provided some frameworks and criteria of sustainability for inspiration, which can be found at the bottom of the Module I online compendium (The Natural Step, Heinbergs Sustainability Axioms and the Sustainable Development Goals). We recommend using AtKisson, Hopwood and Raworth to help you with these questions. *The Sustainability Transformation* book by Alan AtKisson can also be of use to you - it can be read in the CEMUS library under the section for "Project management and communication".

Some of you have studied sustainability before, and are very familiar with the concept. For you we pose the challenge of providing an advanced response to the questions above, where you feel you are challenging yourself and progressing in your understanding of sustainability.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Size: 12. Spacing: 1.5. Font: Times New Roman. Margins: 25mm
- Use references from at least three resources in the online compendium or course book for each question. (Of course, we encourage you to refer to literature from outside the course as well)
- Answer these questions in 700-1000 words
- Write your name on top of every page
- Name the file in the following way: `firstname.lastname3` (ex : john.galt3.doc)
- Upload the file on the *File Area* entitled *Sustainability Framework* on Studentportalen
- **DEADLINE: February 12th, 23.59**

REFERENCES

- Use the course literature and lectures to support your argument. Feel free to refer to other sources in addition to this.
- 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 the Harvard or Oxford Referencing System and include page numbers. Be sure to be consistent with which reference system you use!

GRADING CRITERIA:

Your paper will be judged on the following:

1. **Clarity;** the language must be clear, understandable and at a sufficiently high university standard. The questions must be entirely answered.
2. **Argumentation;** if argumentation is part of the assignment, the arguments must be relevant, important and adequate.
3. **Academic;** research methods and resources must be anchored in scientific and analytical sources.
4. **References;** references must be properly used and done according to the instructions above throughout the paper.