

Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities

Reading Groups

The purpose of the reading groups is to acquire a deeper understanding of the course book, Garth Massey's *Ways of Social Change* through reflection and discussion with your classmates. You will meet in your groups four times during the first half of the course, and hand in a discussion summary after each meeting. This task focuses on the following course goals:

- *give an account of, and be able to evaluate, the strategies, room to maneuver and limitations of different societal actors in striving toward a sustainable society;*
- *be able to discuss individual/actors' perspectives compared to structural/system perspectives on cultural change;*
- *have reflected on his/her own role in the causes and solutions of issues of sustainable development.*

Instructions:

Read the assigned chapters individually, and then discuss them in your reading group, using the following questions as support:

- What are the main points the author is trying to make? How does the book relate to the other course literature and the work of the guest speakers?
- Critically evaluate the chapters. Does the author make convincing arguments? Do you agree with the book's message? What are useful lessons that we can learn from the author?
- Pick one of the discussion questions per chapter and discuss them (ideally decide on which one in advance).

You can find your assigned reading group on Studentportalen shortly after the course registration is complete. Assign one note taker each session (this should rotate) and submit a summary that provides a brief overview of your discussion on Studentportalen (400-500 words per session). Be sure to include the names of everyone present.

If you have a legitimate reason to miss a reading group meeting, email your own reflection on the assigned chapters of the book in approximately 300-400 words. Note though that the discussion with your peers is an integral part of this exercise, so missing a meeting should be an absolute exception.

Schedule:

It is your responsibility as a group to decide on a meeting time that works for everyone to discuss the course chapters. Each meeting should last for two hours. If you struggle to find a time that doesn't work for everyone, let us know and we will try to find a solution by switching one or two people with another group.

Chapters	Deadline for Summary
(skim chapter 1) <i>Chapter 2: Recognizing Social Change</i> <i>Chapter 3: Understanding and Explaining Social Change</i>	Sunday, February 4 th
<i>Chapter 4: Technology, Science and Innovation – The...</i> <i>Chapter 5: Social Movements – Social Change through Contention</i>	Sunday, February 18 th
Chapter 6: War, Revolution and Social Change – Political Violence and... Chapter 7: Corporations in the Modern Era – The Commercial Transformation...	Sunday, March 4 th
Chapter 8: The State and Social Change – The Uses of Public Resources... Chapter 9: Making Social Change – Actively Engaging in a Desire for...	Sunday, March 18 th