

# GLOBAL CHALLENGES



# SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Course information – Autumn 2018



**CEMUS**

# Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures

CEMUS | Centre for Environment and Development Studies | Autumn Semester 2018

---

What is a sustainable world you would like to live in?

That would satisfy your deepest dreams and longings?...

It lives in me, a sustainable world that isn't a sacrifice or a bunch of different regulations, a sustainable world that I would love to live in...

What would make this a world that would make you excited to get up in the morning and go to work with?

Donella Meadows

in *Creating a Sustainable and Desirable Future*

This year Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures (GCSF), an interdisciplinary course at the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS), is given for the 11th time. The course is built on informative and engaging guest lectures on various global challenges of our time. Using interactive workshops, seminars and two projects, we will take a closer look at sustainability issues and how they are interconnected, by looking at specific regions and cities, both from global and local perspectives. The course is going to give an overview of different challenges that are happening on our planet, providing, also a space to think and discuss about futures and what actions are required at different scales to achieve sustainable ones.

We hope that you will find your time here exciting, fulfilling and inspiring.

Welcome to the course!

Laila Mendy and Sachiko Ishihara

Course Coordinators

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Feel free to contact us regarding any aspect of the course. Preferably contact us by email or during class if you would like to meet in person.

Course Email: [gcsf@cemus.uu.se](mailto:gcsf@cemus.uu.se)

Sachiko Ishihara: [sachiko.ishihara@cemus.uu.se](mailto:sachiko.ishihara@cemus.uu.se)

Laila Mendy: [laila.mendy@cemus.uu.se](mailto:laila.mendy@cemus.uu.se)

Course website: <http://www.web.cemus.se/gcsf/>

Information will be posted on the website, so please make sure to visit it regularly, preferably once a week to check that there are no changes in the schedule.

Visit us at CEMUS, Geocentrum, Villavägen 16, Uppsala

Telephone: 018-471 27 95 / [www.cemus.uu.se](http://www.cemus.uu.se)

## **LEARNING PROCESS & COURSE STRUCTURE**

This course is for 7.5 credits (ECTS) and is given part-time (25% of full-time study workload) with class once a week on Tuesday evenings (usually at 17:15-20:00) throughout the whole Autumn semester.

The course schedule, list of course literature, instruction for assignments, and other course information will be posted on the course website and updated throughout the course. So, please visit the course portal regularly for the latest information and updates: <http://www.web.cemus.se/gcsf/> and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail: [gcsf@cemus.uu.se](mailto:gcsf@cemus.uu.se).

The course consists of engaging lectures, seminars and workshops, as well as examinations including individual and group work. Guest lecturers from different fields, both from academics and other actors, will hold lectures on various global challenges. The seminars will be mainly interactive discussions on the literature and take a closer look at topics from lectures. The workshops will be a space to share and co-create knowledge related to the assignments and our own experience related to challenges we are facing today.

Attendance is mandatory, and preparation and active participation in lectures, workshops and seminars is a requirement to pass the course. You will be given several assignments to complete both individually and in groups. As the course progresses, more information about these assignments and examination, as well as the seminar preparation tasks and sessions, will be presented in class and posted on the course website.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- From a multidisciplinary perspective account for the present sustainability challenge in a global context.
- Account for different causes to and possible solutions to the sustainability challenge in a specific city or region, and be able to relate these to global challenges within the sustainability field.
- Reflect and critically relate to his/her role relating to the causes and solutions of the sustainability challenge.
- Discuss and relate to different visions and ideas about what sustainable futures might mean.

## EXAMINATION

GCSF is a graded course (Fail-3-4-5). In order to pass the course, the basic requirements that you will find on the assignments instructions need completion. In order to get higher grades, you will need to meet the General Grading Criteria that you will find on the Course Website. Specific instructions for each examination will be provided during the course.

### Active Participation

All of the class sessions are mandatory. We expect you to actively participate during the course sessions, as discussions and questions are essential components for achieving your own learning and contributing to your classmates' learning. You should come prepared by reading the assigned literature *before* each lecture/ seminar or workshop session. You will be asked to do a Make-Up Task for the classes that you have missed.

### Student-Led Sessions (SLS)

In relation to your *Active Participation* in the course, students will organize a part of each lecture/ seminar session and other relevant activities out-of-class. We will have a group of students planning and facilitating an interactive activity or discussion seminar after the lecture. Further information will be provided on the groups, and don't worry if you have never done this before – you're not alone and specific guidance will be provided!

### Workshops

Participatory and interactive pedagogical methods are essential in dealing with messy, complex problems such as the global sustainability challenges, where there is no straight answer to anything. Since this is a core component of the course, if you miss any of the sessions labeled *Workshops*, you are required to turn in an extra make-up task. The extra task will be equally demanding and is focused on your individual effort and contribution to the content discussed during the seminars included in the regular schedule.

### Assignments

In addition to the participation above, you will be given other examination tasks throughout the course:

- 30 Day Challenge
- Student-led Sessions
- Project: Back to the Futures We Want

More information about each of these assignments will be given as the course progresses, in class and on the course website.

## LITERATURE

The course literature consists of one book, which you will read throughout the course, and a Course Reader. Further material and instructions as well as the reading schedule will be provided as the course progresses.

The book we will read is:

- Oreskes, N. & Conway, E.M., 2014. *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future.*

The book can be ordered online at websites such as Adlibris.se, Bokus.com and amazon.co.uk. It will be also available in CEMUS library – but only for reading in the library, not for borrowing.

A **Course Reader** is used in parallel to the course book. This is a compilation of articles and book chapters, selected and developed by the Course Coordinators and the lecturers in relevance to each lecture session. This reader can be found on the Course Website every week.

A **Not-Course Reader** will be offered to students who are interested in developing their reading further. This collection of resources were considered for the course but left out due to limitations of time and scope. These readings are neither mandatory nor needed for class discussions. However, we encourage you to engage with these to develop your interest in the field of sustainability.

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE COURSE

Here is a brief presentation of us working with this course for Fall 2018.

### Course Coordinators

**Sachiko Ishihara** is from Japan. She has a bachelor's degree in Agro-biological Resource Science, along with a teaching degree in Natural Science for high schools in Japan. She has a master's degree in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University and SLU. She has started working as a course coordinator in spring 2015, and starts her PhD at the Department of Social and Economic Geography at Uppsala University in September 2018.

**Laila Mendy** is from the UK. She has a bachelors in International Politics and French and a master's degree in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University and SLU. She works within a number of organisations local to Uppsala on environmental engagement and climate change. She has been working at CEMUS as a course coordinator since Autumn 2017.

### Course Work Group

All CEMUS' courses collaborate with a work group of senior teachers and researchers from Uppsala's two universities. The work group will contribute to course content, concepts, and examination methods.

This year's group consists of:

**Malin Östman** is an educational coordinator at CEMUS. She has experience in pedagogical development, and has background in philosophy, American studies, history of art, aesthetics, environment and development studies and anthropology.

**Jan van Boeckel** is an artist-educator, anthropologist and film-maker. Currently, he is professor in art education at the Estonian Academy of Arts in Tallinn.

**Daniel Mossberg** is the Director of Studies at CEMUS. He has worked at CEMUS since 2004 and has a background in Cultural Anthropology, Philosophy and Sustainable Development.

**Maisa Young is an** Environmental Strategist at Region Uppsala, and has worked with reducing the environmental impact from consumables, focusing on plastics, at Region Uppsala and the region since 2016. She is a former student at CEMUS of the Master's programme in Sustainable Development. Currently she focuses on regional development and cooperation around energy and climate issues in the Uppsala region.

**Hanna Vikström** is a post-doc researcher at the research programme Natural Resources and Sustainable Development at the Department of Earth Sciences at Uppsala University. She has a PhD from the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH, Royal Institute of Technology. Currently, her research centers on renewable energy technologies and critical metals.

**Alejandro Marcos Vallos** is a former course coordinator for Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures and other CEMUS courses (Project Management and Communication, Introduction to Interdisciplinary Science, etc.). He has been involved in CEMUS since 2012 and a course coordinator since 2014. He is currently a PhD candidate at Autonomous University of Barcelona.

**Thomas Schallhart** is a former course coordinator for Global Challenges and Sustainable Futures 2017. He has a Master's Degree in Environmental Communication and Management from SLU. Currently, he works at an animal rights organization in Berlin.

**Nipaporn Lohacharoenvanich (Jib)** and **Alejandro Manero Ruz** are this year's student representatives in the working group. They took the course in 2017, and give feedback and suggestions based on reflections of their previous student experience.

## **CEMUS**

### **CEMUS Education**

The education at CEMUS focuses on a comprehensive understanding of the challenges of sustainable development. This demands innovative teaching methods and an interdisciplinary approach. Since its inception, CEMUS courses have been run by students with the continual support of work groups and educational staff, whose members include professors and researchers from Uppsala's two universities.

CEMUS' primary point of departure and approach is based on what has become known as "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)". Through democratic, realistic and extensive work modes, this teaching method strives to motivate students to heighten their critical thinking skills, as well as encourage responsibility and engagement in the issues of sustainable development. The courses at CEMUS also function as a complement to the universities' specialized and disciplinary education. CEMUS is constantly widening its scope to address the most current debates in our society, as well as requests from students. Around 600 students per year take part in one or more of the many different courses offered at CEMUS.

CONTACT: Daniel Mossberg // [daniel.mossberg@cemus.uu.se](mailto:daniel.mossberg@cemus.uu.se)

### **About CEMUS**

CEMUS has as its goal to advance and inspire education and knowledge within the field of environment and development studies, as well as other boundary-transcending issues connected to sustainable development. CEMUS began as an initiative by students in the early 90's and CEMUS courses are, in large part, still run by students today. The courses at CEMUS are built in collaboration between students, course coordinators, teachers, researchers, university administrators and societal actors.

WEB: <http://www.web.cemus.se/>

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/cemusuppsala>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/CEMUSUPPSALA>

NEWSLETTER: Sign up at <http://www.web.cemus.se/cemus-newsletter-and-social-media/>

### **CEMUS also organizes the following courses:**

#### **Fall semester 2018**

- Climate Change Leadership in Practice, 30 ECTS
- Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Development in Sweden, 7.5 ECTS
- The Global Economy – Environment, Development and Globalization, 15 ECTS
- Sustainable Development – Project Management and Communication, 15 ECTS
- Hållbar Utveckling A, 30 ECTS
- Global miljöhistoria, 7.5 ECTS
- Klimatet, energin och det moderna samhället, 7.5 ECTS
- Worldviews and Visions, a Seminar Series (part of the Master program for Sustainable Development – only open to students from the program), 5 ECTS
- Worldviews and Discourses, a Seminar Series (part of the Master program for Sustainable Development – only open to students from the program), 5 ECTS
- Introduction to Interdisciplinary Science (part of the Master program for Sustainable Development – only open to students from the program), 5 ECTS

## Spring semester 2019

Courses will be announced shortly at <http://www.web.cemus.se/education/>

### **Collaboration & Partnership – CEMUS Forum**

The scope of the CEMUS model is not limited to the classroom setting. CEMUS Forum organizes open lectures, conferences and festivals on education for sustainable development, film showings, discussions, workshops and a variety of other events. Much of this work is done in collaboration with students, in the envisioning, planning and delivery stages. These events are intended to not only attract current university staff and students, but also alumni, government officials, interested individuals and organizations. The aim of this work is to extend the educational core of the center by bridging the gaps between the theoretical and the practical, the young and the old and the academic and non-academic worlds, as well as to create a meeting place for people interested in interdisciplinary education and sustainable solutions. At the beginning of every semester, CEMUS Forum and CEMUS Roots (our student organisation) host a Project Café. This is a great way to get involved with current projects at CEMUS and share new ideas and projects you would like to make happen.

CONTACT: Katelin Markcrow // [katelin.markcrow@cemus.uu.se](mailto:katelin.markcrow@cemus.uu.se)

Sanna Gunnarsson // [sanna.gunnarsson@cemus.uu.se](mailto:sanna.gunnarsson@cemus.uu.se)

### **Transdisciplinary Research – CEMUS Research School**

Cemus Research Forum (Cefo) is an interdisciplinary research school for PhD students that focus on broad environment and development-related issues. As a PhD student associated to Cefo you aim to participate actively in Cefo's research seminars (about 5 seminars per term) and propose activities according to your own research interest. The courses and the seminars are also open for those doctoral students that are not associated to CEFO.

CONTACT: Anneli Ekblom // [anneli.ekblom@cemus.uu.se](mailto:anneli.ekblom@cemus.uu.se)

<http://www.climatechangeladership.se/cemus-research-forum/>

### **CEMUS Roots**

CEMUS Roots is a dynamic and self-governing student-run group, inclusive to all. It was established in order to allow students to take an active role in influencing the way that education is conducted at the center. Active participants have in the past taken on the roles of CEMUS student representatives attending university faculty and board meetings. Conferences, field trips, lectures, workshops, film showings and open-panel discussions are just some of the types of events which the group has realized in the past, both with and without the cooperation of staff. In CEMUS Roots students have the opportunity to realize their visions for a more sustainable culture, and fill in the gaps of their education in ways which are most beneficial to their learning.

[www.facebook.com/CEMUSRoots](http://www.facebook.com/CEMUSRoots)

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

CEMUS is open between 9:00 am and 15:30 pm, Mondays to Fridays. If you want to study in the library outside these hours or during weekends, you can easily get a key card. The key card also gives access to the main Geocentrum entrance, which is locked after 17.00 and before 08.00. To get a key card, go to the building attendant's office in EBC, directions are posted in the corridors. (You must be registered for a CEMUS course to get the key card.)

### **CEMUS Library // Lab // Lounge**

In the CEMUS Library // Lab // Lounge you will find literature related to environment and development issues, magazines, journals and other publications, such as master and doctoral theses. You can also bring food from the nearby grocery store, slouch in the sofas and read the course literature. The library is a shared space for staff, coordinators and students – please respect the guidelines posted in the library to ensure a pleasant work and study environment for all. It is possible to book the library for CEMUS-related activities, however, educational activities such as seminars have precedence. All the course literature for CEMUS courses is available there, including several shelves of reference books. These may only be read inside the library, and are not to be taken home. There are also books that can be borrowed through the Geocentrum Library.

### **Geocentrum library**

The Geocentrum Library is located down the hall from CEMUS. Copies of the CEMUS course literature are available for borrowing there. You can also go there to borrow books from the CEMUS library (only the ones that are marked with the Geo-library system).

### **The Language Workshop (Språkverkstaden) at Uppsala University**

The Language Workshop offers consultations about written and oral presentations on an individual basis in both Swedish and English. It is free of charge and available to all students on the undergraduate and master's levels. We strongly encourage you to get in touch with the Language Workshop if you are struggling with a paper or want to improve your written English.

[www.sprakverkstaden.uu.se](http://www.sprakverkstaden.uu.se)