


# COURSE INFORMATION


## Autumn semester 2018



**CEMUS**

*Critical Perspectives on  
Sustainable Development  
in Sweden*

*7.5 credits*




Sweden is often portrayed as a world leader within the sustainability field, but does Sweden live up to that image? Which Swedish examples can serve as inspiration and a model for sustainability on a global level?

Sweden has a positive image internationally, particularly when it comes to sustainable development. This course is designed to concretely examine this image of Sweden by taking a closer, critical look at how Sweden has worked with sustainable development historically and how well current initiatives can serve as a model for sustainability on a global level.

Through interaction with various academics and professionals, this course allows students to examine various sustainable development successes and failures in Sweden from different perspectives. The various case studies and examples from Sweden problematise the environmental, economic, and social aspects of sustainable development. As such, this course challenges students to grapple with the highly contested concept of 'sustainable development', from the ecological, to the social and ethical aspects, and apply it to the Swedish context.


Discussions of Swedish examples also serve as inspiration in how we practically work with sustainability, along with learning from mistakes made in past and current policies.



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SLU

Sweden is often portrayed as a world leader within the sustainability field, but does Sweden live up to that image? Which Swedish cases can serve as inspiration and be considered as good examples of sustainability in practice and which ones are found lacking? Sustainable Development has become a highly contested concept. This course takes a closer, critical look at how Sweden has worked with Sustainable Development historically and how well current initiatives can serve as a model for sustainability on a global level.

Welcome to Critical Perspectives on Sustainable Development in Sweden!

André & Caroline

## Contact Information

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### **Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS)**

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

Feel free to contact us regarding any aspect of the course. **Preferably contact us by email.**

Caroline Bodin: [caroline.bodin@cemus.uu.se](mailto:caroline.bodin@cemus.uu.se)

André Dutra: [andre.dutra@cemus.uu.se](mailto:andre.dutra@cemus.uu.se)

CEMUS Website: <http://www.web.cemus.se/>

Course Webpage: <http://www.web.cemus.se/sdswe/>

*We do not have specified office hours, so please contact us by email or during class if you would like to meet in person.*

**Information will be posted on Studentportalen ([www.studentportalen.uu.se](http://www.studentportalen.uu.se)) and on the course webpage so make sure to visit it regularly, preferably once a week to check that there are no changes in the schedule.**

## Course Structure

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The course consists of informative and engaging seminars and seminars in workshop format. The classes will take place on Thursday evenings at 17:15-19:00 or -20:00. All seminars and workshops require that you are well prepared. **Please note that all sessions have mandatory attendance!** Seminars and workshops are led by the course coordinators and invited guest lecturers that have experience and proficiency in the respective subjects. Our guest lecturers come from a wide range of different areas and together they will give a good combination of knowledge from academia, governmental agencies, industry and civil society. The course is structured into three modules:

- Module I: History and development of the Swedish Society
- Module II: Nature & Environment
- Module III: Sweden in the World

## Learning Outcomes

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After taking this course the aim is for you to be able to:

- Account for different actors' perspective on sustainable development in Sweden, and critically discuss their different definitions of and indicators of sustainable development;
- Account for and critically discuss the origin and development of the Swedish sustainability discourse, and conflicting conceptions of Sweden as a world leader within the sustainability field;
- Account for what characterizes Swedish work and Swedish initiatives for sustainable development at the local, regional and international level;
- Critically relate to and evaluate Swedish actors' visions and solutions that aims at a sustainable future, and their different strategies to achieve a sustainable society in a global context.

## Examination

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The course is graded (Fail-3-4-5). All your work will be submitted electronically on our course page on **studentportalen.uu.se**. In order to pass the course, the basic requirements that you will find in each assignment instruction will need completion. Marking is made based on the General Grading Criteria that you will find on the Course Portal and Studentportalen. Specific instructions for each examination will be provided during the course.

### Active Participation

We expect you to be active and inquisitive during all sessions. In order to do this you need to come prepared beforehand by reading the literature. During the sessions we suggest that you practice active note taking which will become useful in your written assignments. Each session will require your participation in engaging with your peers and the lecturers in discussion.

### Seminar Sessions & Seminars in Workshop Format

The seminar sessions and seminars in workshop format are **compulsory**. If for some reason you miss a session you will have to make up for this by handing in an extra make-up task. The make-up task will be more demanding and focused on your individual effort and contribution than the seminars included in the regular schedule.

### Group Project

The group project is your first assignment in this class. This project report will exemplify your understanding of critical thought on topics of sustainable development within Sweden. You will begin to work with the group project early into the course. With this report you get the opportunity to look into topics of your own interest that might not be covered by the sessions in the schedule. However, aspects from the course should still remain relevant.

### Individual Assignment

This essay will be your final assignment and be handed in after the final session later in January. The aim of this essay is for you to show your understanding and reflections of Sustainable Development. It will also prove your ability to analyze the pros and cons of Sweden being

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portrayed as role model and “success story” within the field.

## Literature

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You will be responsible for reading books and articles in preparation for each session. There is a reading schedule available on the course portal and on [studentportalen.uu.se](http://studentportalen.uu.se). The individual articles for each week will be made available as electronic copies in the reading folder on Studentportalen. Additionally, the following books will be used throughout the course:

*The Nordic Model: Scandinavia since 1945*, by Mary Hilson. Respected Scandinavian historian Mary Hilson surveys the political bureaucracies of the five Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden—and traces their historical influences and the ways they have changed, individually and as a group, over time. The book investigates issues such as economic development, foreign policy, politics, government, and the welfare state, and it also explores prevailing cultural perceptions of Scandinavia in the twentieth century. Hilson then turns to the future of the Nordic region as a unified whole within Europe as well as in the world, and considers the re-emergence of the Baltic Sea as a pivotal region on the global stage.

*How to Become a Really Good Pain in the Ass: a critical thinker's guide to asking the right questions*, by Christopher DiCarlo, is certainly different from your typical logic book. Di Carlo combines real erudition with a very down-to-earth, upbeat expository style that becomes lively and entertaining in an informal but informational manner.

*Use and Misuse of Nature's Resources: An Environmental History of Sweden*, by Bernes and Lundgren, Naturvårdsverket. This book provides a look into many different areas where sustainability can be implemented and gives more fact based information on the current state of such topics as forestry, energy production, agriculture, etc. in Sweden. You will be using this book for the final individual assignment and for a few of the lectures, all of which are clearly stated in the reading list on Studentportalen.

## Course Management

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### Course Coordinators

**Caroline Bodin** is from Uppsala, Sweden. Apart from having studied a couple CEMUS courses herself, she has a double Bachelor's degree in History and in Peace & Development Studies from Uppsala University and has been working at CEMUS since April 2016. She is also currently working at the United Nations Association Sweden coordinating Model United Nations Role Plays. [caroline.bodin@cemus.uu.se](mailto:caroline.bodin@cemus.uu.se)

**André Dutra** is from Brasília, Brazil. He moved to Sweden in 2016 and studied a couple of CEMUS courses before being admitted to the Masters Programme in Sustainable Development. He has a bachelor in International Relations and is Specialist in Public Management, both from IESB, in Brasília, where he worked in the local government as Special Advisor for Mobility. He also studied Competitive and Innovative Cities in Krems, Austria and been invited to the International Visitors Leadership Program by the US Department of State. He is also a Course Coordinator for Climate Change Leadership, in the Spring Semester. [andre.dutra@cemus.uu.se](mailto:andre.dutra@cemus.uu.se)

### Course Work Group

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The course coordinators work together with a work group throughout the planning phase of the course. The work group consists of a diverse set up employees and researchers at the university as well as former students and external actors with knowledge relevant to the specific course. This year's work group has consisted of:

**Malin Östman:** Educational Coordinator at CEMUS and examiner for the course.  
[malin.ostman@cemus.uu.se](mailto:malin.ostman@cemus.uu.se)

**Daniel Mossberg:** Director of Studies and Acting Program Director at CEMUS.  
[Daniel.mossberg@cemus.uu.se](mailto:Daniel.mossberg@cemus.uu.se)

**Sachiko Ishihara:** Former course coordinator for SDSWE. Currently working with outreach and other courses at CEMUS.

**Jacob Grandin:** Former course coordinator at CEMUS and currently holds a PhD candidate position at the department of geography at University of Bergen, Norway.

## CEMUS & Geocentrum

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### Practical Information

CEMUS is open between 09.00 am and 3.30 pm, Mondays to Fridays, from the indoor entrance. If you want to study in the library/lounge during other hours of the day or during weekends, you can get a keycard. To get a keycard, go to the janitors' office next door to the Geo-library in Geocentrum. There is no access to CEMUS from the outside of the building without a key card.

In CEMUS' multi-space/library you will find literature related to environment and development issues, magazines, and journals. You can also hang out in the sofas and read the course literature. All the course literature for CEMUS' courses is available there, but only for reading inside the library, **not** taking home.

You can use our facilities for organizing open meetings, conferences, seminars, movie shows, lectures, etc. Just ask any of the staff members and we will help you with bookings.

### CEMUS education

The education at CEMUS focuses on a comprehensive understanding of the challenges of sustainable development. This demands innovative teaching methods and a transdisciplinary approach. Since its inception, CEMUS courses have been run by students working as course coordinators 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". Through democratic, grounded 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 800 students per year take part



in one of the many different courses offered at CEMUS.

### **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 coordinators at CEMUS help create and run CEMUS courses, at both entry and advanced levels, and they work in close collaboration with well-respected teachers and researchers from both universities.

### **CEMUS Research Forum (CEFO)**

CEMUS research school (CEFO) offers an interdisciplinary environment with doctoral courses and seminars for PhD students and researchers from all disciplines at Uppsala University and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Find out more at

[http://www.cemus.uu.se/cefo/index\\_eng.html](http://www.cemus.uu.se/cefo/index_eng.html)

### **CEMUS Forum**

CEMUS Forum serves as a forum for student-initiated activities and contact with society at large. The meeting place offers students a chance to start projects, distributes a newsletter with a calendar of local, national, and international events, organizes seminars, and has a library with a wide range of books and magazines with focus on environment and development issues.

### **CEMUS is also active via Facebook and twitter:**

<https://www.facebook.com/cemusuppsala/>

<http://twitter.com/CEMUSCSDUPPSALA>

## **Other Courses at CEMUS**

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### **Fall semester 2018**

- Global Challenges & Sustainable Futures, 7.5 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
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## Contact CEMUS

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Visit us at  
Villavägen 16, Uppsala  
Telephone: 018-471 72 94  
<http://www.web.cemus.se/>

**Welcome and good luck  
with your studies!**

André & Caroline