



# Actors and Strategies for Change

– Towards Global Sustainabilities, 7.5 hp



## **Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities, 7.5 hp**

**At the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS)**

---

*Who are the key actors working towards a sustainable future and what are their different strategies for achieving this change? What are the power relationships between these key actors? What kind of room to manoeuvre do these different societal actors have? What are the risks and limitations they face? What kind of critical thinking is necessary to assess the effectiveness of their chosen strategies? What responsibilities do we as individuals have in creating a more sustainable world?*

*Welcome to Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities.*

*Guy and Vera*

---

### **Contact Information**

---

Feel free to contact us regarding any aspect of the course. **Preferably contact us by e-mail.** Our office is Dk125 (first office on the left when you enter the CEMUS library), you will have the biggest chance of finding us there between 15.00 and 17.00 on Mondays.

Phone: 018 – 471 27 89 (Please try to reach us by phone between 15.00 and 17.00 on Mondays)

**Information will be posted on the [Course webpage](#) so make sure to visit it regularly, at least once a week to check there are any changes in the schedule or new information available. You will also need to obtain access to [Studentportalen](#) to be able to hand in assignments. Make sure that you have this access as soon as possible. Information on that can be found [here](#).**

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

Guy Finkill: [guy.finkill@cemus.uu.se](mailto:guy.finkill@cemus.uu.se)

Vera Schumann: [vera.schumann@cemus.uu.se](mailto:vera.schumann@cemus.uu.se)

---

## Course Layout

---

The course consists of informative and engaging guest speakers, workshops, a group field research, student-led discussions and written assignments. During the course, we will take a closer look at historical and topical issues and their interconnectedness by looking at specific actors and strategies. All sessions will take place on Monday evenings unless specified (field excursions).

The course consists of three modules (theories, actors, and strategies). The second module will be based on lectures with inspiring actors, there will be elements of a flipped classroom with the possibility and requirement of active student participation. Much of the preparation for the class will happen outside of it in a more passive manner by reading literature, finding information and engaging with the news and information related to the incoming guests, while the in-class time will be much more active than in conventional classrooms. The first module (theories) will be mostly structured in a seminar/workshop manner. The last module (strategies) will consist of field research and a student-led seminar with presentations and discussions.

In addition, selected literature and videos will help students prepare for each session and reading groups on the chosen course book (more information in the welcome letter) will accompany classes and support the learning process.

On completion of the course, the student should,

- Have an up-to-date, interdisciplinary understanding of the issues of sustainable development;
- Give an account of, and be able to evaluate, the strategies, room to manoeuvre 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.

---

## Requirements

---

Note that the course is graded (3 – 4 – 5). The highest grade you can achieve is 5. However, most parts of the examination are pass/fail and only one individual written assignment will be graded. In order to pass the course, all elements of the examination model need to be passed by the student. See examination schedule for more information.

**To pass the course you need to display active participation in the seminar sessions as well as the following...**

### **Reading groups**

During the course you will meet six times in assigned reading groups to discuss the literature (more often if you wish). You will submit a reflection on your discussion after each reading group meeting. These groups will help you in understanding the literature on a deeper level, preparing for the literature seminar and in writing your Individual Assignment.

### **Group field research**

In the beginning of module 3, you will do an actors-in-action research that will investigate an actor (or set of actors), who work towards change, by following them in their daily work, doing interviews and using other methods that help you in understanding what they want to achieve and how they work towards it. To get a deeper understanding, you will analyse the actor based on the Theory of Change model and present your results in a group report.

### **Student-led seminar**

In the second part of the third module, you will present the results of your research in an interactive and engaging way by first giving a presentation and then engaging with the other students in a student-led seminar discussion. This session should result in a thorough understanding of both the assessed actors and the related literature through insights from other perspectives.

### **Written assignments**

At the beginning of the course, you will write a short text presenting your motivation to take the course and your expectations. This paper will not be graded, but functions as a tool for us of getting to know you and for you to start thinking about your role in bringing about change.

At the end of the course, you will be required to write an assignment that combines the knowledge acquired through the actors-in-action research and active participation in the lecture series in module 2. There will also be a personal reflection within this assignment. This assignment will be graded. More information about the written assignments will be provided as the course progresses, and all information will be posted on the course website.



---

## Literature

---

The course literature is an integral part of the course. Each week you will read literature connected to the theme of the coming session. It is essential that you read **in advance** so that you are able to engage with guest speakers and your classmates and actively participate in workshops. In addition to books and articles, preparations for classes include a variety of different media. We have chosen six books on change from which you will choose one. These books will be used as a resource in preparation for, and during, the sessions. These books are available in the CEMUS library for reference use in the library.

### Course Reader:

The course reader is a series of articles and other resources that will cover, session by session, relevant topics discussed during the course. For some of the sessions we have also provided further reading as a resource for continued exploration within a topic and for writing your assignments. The reader is available through the course portal, and structured according to each session.

---

## 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 25 years ago, 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' specialised 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.



## About CEMUS

The Centre for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS), is a student-initiated, transdisciplinary centre at Uppsala University and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, with the explicit ambition to contribute to a more just and sustainable world. Student-faculty collaboration weaves as a golden thread through the history and organization of all activities at the centre.

Since its inception in the early 1990's, the centre has initiated and expanded the space for transdisciplinary student-led higher education as well as research and collaboration that transcends traditional academic disciplines and boundaries between academia and society at large.

[WEB](#)  
[COURSE PORTAL](#)  
[CEMUS FACEBOOK](#)  
[TWITTER](#)

## 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 attract not only 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 centre 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 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: 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 focusses 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: Dominic Teodorescu // [dominic.teodorescu@kultgeog.uu.se](mailto:dominic.teodorescu@kultgeog.uu.se)



## Practical Information

CEMUS is open between 9:00am and 15:30pm, 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, next door to the library in Geocentrum. 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 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)

## Warm welcome and good luck with your studies!

*Guy and Vera*