

# Actors and Strategies for Change - Towards Global Sustainabilities

## Examination for Actors and Strategies for Change: Towards Global Sustainabilities 2021

Welcome to the Spring 2021 Actors and Strategies for Change course, below you will find information related to the examination of the course. If you have any questions please contact us.

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**Syllabus:** Found at the following link (most of the information is also available at the end of this document:

<https://www.uu.se/en/admissions/master/selma/kursplan/?kpid=38851&lasar=17%2F18&typ=1>

### Examination Model

Note that the final oral presentation is mandatory for all on the chosen dates

Type of Examination	Grade	Format	Deadlines
<b>Individual Reflection Workshop/seminar</b>	Pass/Fail	Preparation for and partaking in mandatory workshop	February 22nd
<b>Letters to the Earth Workshop</b>	Pass/Fail	Preparation for and partaking in mandatory workshop	March 1st
<b>Literature and Actor Reflection Workshop/seminar</b>	Pass/Fail	Preparation for and partaking in mandatory workshop	April 26th
<b>Active Student Participation</b>	Pass/Fail	Participation in sessions and group work	Throughout the course
<b>Oral Presentation</b>	Pass/Fail	'Actors in Action' Presentation	May 17th & May 24th
<b>Individual Assignment</b>	Fail, 3, 4, 5	Written Assignment	May 31st



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## **Choice of Change Literature**

All students will pick from a list of 6 books about change. There will be first come-first serve sign-ups for each book so the same number of students read each book. The students will need to have read their book and be ready to discuss them for the workshop at the end of module 2.

### **Individual Reflection Workshop at the End of Module 1 (February 22nd)**

The first course module will conclude with a workshop where students will reflect on what an actor of change is, how one becomes an actor of change, how the students envision themselves as an actor of change and how this relates to the theories discussed in the first module. Preparing for and taking part in the workshop will help students develop the ability to “thoroughly reflect on their own role in the causes and solutions of sustainability issues” as well as “from a cross disciplinary perspective account for today's sustainability issues.”

### **Letters to the Earth Workshop (March 1st)**

The second module will begin with a workshop where students will write Letters to Earth, which will creatively engage students with the climate and ecological crises currently happening both locally and globally. The workshop will facilitate discussion on their thoughts and feelings about these crises and provide students with a concrete example of how to inspire others to action. Preparing for and taking part in the workshop will help students develop the ability to “thoroughly reflect on their own role in the causes and solutions of sustainability issues” as well as “from a cross disciplinary perspective account for today's sustainability issues.”

### **Literature and Actor Reflection workshop at the End of Module 2 (April 26th)**

The second course module will conclude with a workshop where students will reflect on the content of the module as well as discuss the book they chose and reflect on its relation to the content of the course. For the book discussions, students will first discuss in groups of people having read the same book, and then in groups where everyone has read different books. When preparing for and partaking in the workshop students will connect their chosen literature, the theories from the first module and the insights from guest lecture Actors to develop a diverse, interdisciplinary perspective of societal change and how it happens. Preparing for and taking part in the workshop will help students develop the ability to “describe and evaluate different societal actors' strategies, scope for action and limitations in the pursuit of a sustainable society” as well as “reason on individual/actor perspective versus structural/system perspectives on societal change.”

## **Final Assignment - Actor in Action (May 31st)**

For the final assignment, students will choose an actor of change of their choice (though not one that was featured in the course), contact and study this actor and learn how they go about creating change. Based on their interests before choosing actors, students will be paired and choose an actor together with their partner. The written assignments will be individual, but research can be carried out with the partner and the pairs will peer review each other's assignments before final hand-in. For the final assignment, students should demonstrate that they have mastered the learning outcomes for the course.

## **Oral Presentation of the Final Assignment (May 17th & May 24th)**

Students will make oral presentations of their Actor in Action projects. These presentations will be done in the pairs to save some time. The oral presentation should reflect on the insights from the students final assignments but students have creative freedom in how to achieve this via video or other creative formats.

## **Learning Outcomes**

- From cross disciplinary perspective account for today's sustainability issues
- Describe and evaluate different societal actors' strategies, scope for action and limitations in the pursuit of a sustainable society
- Reason on individual/actor perspective versus structural/system perspectives on societal change
- Thoroughly reflect on their own role in the causes and solutions of sustainability issues.

## **Content**

The course gives a broad orientation to the complex sustainability dilemma and highlights different approaches in the pursuit for change. In a multidisciplinary series of lectures with invited guest lecturers, the most serious environmental, development and sustainability challenges of today are discussed, as well as the strategies and scope of action of various actors to solve these problems. Concrete strategies for societal change, at a structural/societal level as well as from an individual perspective, are developed and discussed.

## **Instruction**

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and workshops. The lectures are given by guest lecturers from various academic disciplines and relevant areas of society. Ample opportunities are provided for active student participation and critical reflection. Participation in seminars and workshops is compulsory. Non-compulsory study visits or equivalent may occur.

## Assessment

The student is examined through written preparation for (2 credits) and active participation in seminars and workshops (1.5 credits), and through written documentation (3.5 credits) and oral presentation (0.5 credits) of a project.

If there are special reasons for doing so, an examiner may make an exception from the method of assessment indicated and allow a student to be assessed by another method. An example of special reasons might be a certificate regarding special pedagogical support from the University's disability coordinator.