

# SUSTAINABLE DESIGN: ECOLOGY, CULTURE AND HUMAN BUILT WORLDS 7.5 ECTS

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*How can an interdisciplinary approach to design unlock new creativity and beauty? How can a reflective and critical approach challenge how, what, and why you design? Who are you designing for? How can different design solutions in naturecultures serve as models and inspiration for new designs? And what are the limits of ingenuity and creative design?*

This course looks at design from an interdisciplinary, critical, and philosophical perspective, with focus on different theories and models that turns present conventions of design on their head. With inspiration from ecologies and the more-than-human, and in-depth discussion of how cultural, social, and historic conditions define human perceptions of the environment, the course tries to reach practical conclusions on how creative design can contribute to a sustainable and better world. The course combines interactive workshops with inspiring guest lectures.

Welcome to Sustainable Design: Ecology, Culture and Human Built Worlds 2021 at CEMUS, Uppsala University.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Abigail Garbett (she/her) & Tobias Bharucha (he/him)

Course Coordinators

## COURSE REGISTRATION

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You need to register for the course on [Studentportalen](#). Registration opens approximately a month before the course begins and you need to register before the start of the course to keep your place. More information on how registration works can be found [here](#).

If you are an International student on exchange in Uppsala, you do not need to register for the course.

Contact Jenny Thor ([jenny.thor@geo.uu.se](mailto:jenny.thor@geo.uu.se)) if you have further questions about registration

## COVID-19 AND ONLINE EDUCATION

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We will be following the guidelines from Uppsala University and the Department of Earth Sciences outlining how to conduct education this semester. Due to the current circumstances, the course has been planned to take place online and we will be using the platform Zoom (more below).

## COURSE INTRODUCTION

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The course introduction will take place during the first session on **Tuesday January 19th at 17:15**. We will meet **on zoom** (link <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/68701995912>). If you're not familiar with zoom, please see the university's guide [here](#).

The majority of classes will then be held on zoom for the duration of the semester.

If you have decided not to take the course, please notify us by sending an email to [sdesign@cemus.uu.se](mailto:sdesign@cemus.uu.se) so we can accept someone from the waiting list.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- account for different theoretical and applied design principles and models for sustainable design;
- account for and critically relate to sustainable design from an ethical, cultural, and historical perspective;
- critically review different design solutions ecological, social, and economic consequences, risks, possible uses and functions in the work for a sustainable development;

- independently apply a specific design theory on a specific challenge within the sustainability field.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

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- A preliminary schedule is available on Studentportalen and the course website at: <http://www.cemus.uu.se/sdesign/>.
- For the duration of the course you will be undertaking a Design Project, through which you will apply the theory and processes you learn in the weekly seminars. This will be split into 3 core modules: Framing, Ideation and Re-Framing.
- Weekly, the course consists of engaging lectures and seminars. Lecturers will be delivered by a number of different guests from academia and industry, discussing sustainable design from a variety of different perspectives. During seminars we will take a closer look at topics from lectures and the literature, work through the design process and apply design methods to identify and solve today's sustainability challenges.
- The classes will take place on **Tuesday evenings 17:15-20**. The course will start week 4 and run through to week 23. Classes will typically be held on Zoom.

## LITERATURE

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Literature for the course includes the following:

### Main Course Books:

**Design for Sustainability: A Multi-level framework from Products to Social-technical Systems - By Fabrizio Ceschin and İdil Gaziulusoy**

[Open Access Online](#). 186 pages published by Routledge in August 2019. ISBN9780429456510

**Design Justice: Community-Led Practices to Build the Words We Need - By Sasha Costanza-Chock**

[Open Access Online](#). 360 pages, published by The MIT Press in March 2020. ISBN 9780262043458

### Online Course Compendium

An online compendium with 2-4 texts, videos, audio files and/or other learning material per week available through Studium. This compendium will reflect different authors and perspectives. Most guest lecturers have also included articles in this collection. The material will be available 1 week before the course starts and will be provided through Studium, as well as suggestions for what material to cover for each class.

## EXAMINATION

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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 credit) of a project. A more detailed breakdown of course examination can be found in the Sustainable Design Examination document.

## COURSE TEAM

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### Course Coordinators

Abigail Garbett has a bachelors in fashion design from University of Arts London and has worked with several small-scale clothing brands in the UK. During her masters in Creative Sustainability at Aalto University in Helsinki she switched focus from fashion design to urban design. She is currently interested in the design of urban environments for children and is a member of the UK Urban Ecology Forum.

Tobias Bharucha grew up in Windsor, UK and studied Natural Sciences, majoring in Plant Sciences, at the University of Cambridge. Having worked for a year in the solar industry, he decided to go back to education- why not try Sweden? Currently studying the Global Environmental History masters programme at Uppsala and working at CEMUS.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Feel free to contact us regarding any aspect of the course, either in person or by the following:

Abigail Garbett      [abigail.garbett@cemus.uu.se](mailto:abigail.garbett@cemus.uu.se)

Tobias Bharucha      [tobias.bharucha@cemus.uu.se](mailto:tobias.bharucha@cemus.uu.se)

## CEMUS

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CEMUS' aim is 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.

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 [CEMUS Semester Start-Up](#) for Spring 2021 is highly recommended (but not a part of the course). It will be an open online conversation and critical discussion held by Cristian Alarcon and Sachiko Ishihara.

Time: January 18th 18:15 - 20:00

Location: Zoom (<https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/68827402654>)

Please visit the CEMUS website for more information on current and upcoming events ([www.web.cemus.se](http://www.web.cemus.se)).

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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### Information Flow

The main communication tool will be Studium: [studium.uu.se](http://studium.uu.se). You will need to visit Studium regularly to check for updates on the home page, view course content and to upload your assignments. If you have missed a class, you should visit the webpage to make sure you have not missed any important information. You will need an account for Studium, so please arrange an account as soon as possible! You can find out how you get your account and other information on [uu.se/en/students](http://uu.se/en/students).

Other information can be found on the course website <http://www.cemus.uu.se/sdesign/>

### Class Location

The majority of classes will be held in Zoom. However, there may be some exceptions so please check the schedule to be aware of this. We will also give you plenty of advanced notice in class.

### Access to CEMUS and other Facilities

Currently CEMUS itself is closed to students due to the Corona conditions, we will keep you informed when this hopefully changes.

For access to university buildings, you will require a student card. If you are a new student, information on how to activate your user account can be found at <https://konto.weblogin.uu.se/index.html>.

Instructions on how to obtain your campus card will be sent to the email address registered in the student database. Once you have ordered the card, you will be notified via email when your card is available for pickup at your campus reception desk with an approved identification (driver's licence, passport etc).

### Finding your way:

The app Mazemap is an excellent resource for finding rooms in most buildings.

<https://use.mazemap.com/#v=1>