

# ASC 2023

## *Actors in Action: Final Assignment*

### Assignment Overview

It's time for the last stretch of *Actors and Strategies for Change* in making it to the final assignment! **The final assignment will be broken into four components: a peer-review, a final written paper of 2,500 words, a poster and an oral presentation.** For the final assignment, we want you to critically assess and reflect upon two actors: one actor of your choice and one guest lecturer from the course.

Below is a list of the lecturers we have had in the course:

- Brian Palmer - Personal Courage on the Edge of Extinction
- Karl Andreasson - Vision and Leadership for Change & Movement Ecology and Activism
- Holly Kealey - Creation and Imagination
- Guy Finkill - Blodstensskogen Conflict
- Rob Hopkins - Transition Towns and the Power of Imagination
- Joakim Medin - Sweden and Nato: Journalism in times of changing foreign affairs
- Azril Bacal - Social Movements for environmental climate justice and peace
- Fernando Racimo - The role of scientists in the biospheric emergency
- Pinar Dinc - Ecology, Eco-Feminism in the Kurdish Movement
- Ana Rosa de Lima - NGO Meli Bees Network- Brazilian Amazon Communities
- Alex Brekke - Human Rights Protects Biodiversity

### Aims of the Actors in Action Assignment

- Demonstrate different ways of creating change through written description and discussion.
- Assess different actors in relation to various dimensions of change
- Think critically about visions, strategies and solutions within global sustainabilities.
- Reflect on yourself as a change agent and the course as a whole using your chosen course book and the literature from the course.

## Instructions for the Final Written Assignment

Critically discuss the following, using relevant literature and the course book you have read:

- Consider your chosen lecturer and the class they gave:
  - Discuss parts you were critical of
  - Discuss parts you were positive towards
  - Explain why, in relation to their strengths and weaknesses, problems they are facing, perspectives they are covering or missing. Do this in a clear and concise manner, and include references.
- Compare your chosen lecturer (from above) with your chosen actor:
  - You should define what sustainability area and sustainability issues your chosen actor is working with and compare with the lecturer as described above. (The themes of the two actors do not have to be the same but it could make it easier for you if they are similar.)
  - How are they similar and how are they different in terms of theories, strategies, perspectives, impact, and interpretations?
  - What could the two actors learn from each other?

In the assignment's final discussion, make sure you also:

- Reflect on the ways that these actors helped or did not help you understand ways of change
- Reflect on your own personal experience of becoming or being an active change agent – how do you see change happen and yourself in it?

Make at least **two references to your chosen course book**, **one reference to the mandatory literature** and **one reference to the recommended literature** provided in the week relating to your chosen actor. Please avoid applying these sources superficially. This means to engage with the texts, analyse the helpful contexts and incorporate them in your assignment in a well-connected manner.

**DEADLINE: June 2nd at 23:59**

**REMEMBER!** This assignment is read and graded by an external examiner, so make sure you clearly introduce the actors you are comparing and cite your sources in a concise system (Harvard).

## Formal Requirements

- The paper should follow the rules and meet the standards of academic requirements.
- Reference clearly and concisely using the Harvard referencing system
- Word count: 2,500 (+/- 10%), not including references or graphs/figures
- The paper should be written in Arial.
- Font size: 12pts
- Spacing: 1.5
- Include page numbers
- Write your name, word count, course title and year in the header of every page
- The submission must be in WORD or PDF format.
- Name the file in the following way: firstname.lastname.final (example: nicola.donohoe.final.pdf)
- Upload file on Studium.

## Instructions for the Peer Review

In order to give you a chance to work on and improve your final written assignment before you submit it on the 2nd June, there will be an opportunity for you to get peer-to-peer feedback on your work thus far.

You will send a version of your final written assignment (see final written assignment instruction below) on **May 26th by 12:00 (noon)** to be read by two of your peers **before the presentation seminar on May 29th**. This is an opportunity for you to receive critical feedback from your peers. You will give your feedback both during the presentation seminar on May 29th and it is expected that you give **written feedback to your classmates by May 30th**. How you submit this feedback is up to you (via messages on Studium or email for example). The purpose of the peer-review is to give feedback that helps the author to improve their assignment before the final submission. Good feedback does not only help the author, but also helps you as the reviewer, as you will need to critically reflect on good academic writing during future academic/professional work.

**A note on giving feedback:** a very unfortunate tendency when giving feedback is to only focus on the aspects of a paper that can be improved. It is important to also give positive feedback highlighting what was particularly good, well-written and interesting etc. Keep in mind, feedback should never be directed to the person producing the submission but directed to the submission itself (content/structure etc). The author should not take feedback as a personal offense but see it as an opportunity to improve their skills!

## Instructions for Oral Presentations and Poster

**Oral Presentation Seminar will be held on May 29th - 17:15 - 20:00**

This will be a short presentation where you will have the opportunity to summarise the main elements of your final assignment and to present the two chosen actors that you compared. You will make a poster as a visual aid for this presentation.

*We will **divide this session into segments** so not all posters will be presented at the same time. This will give everyone a chance to walk around and discuss with others during the different segments. It is expected that you visit the posters of your classmates who you have been paired with for the peer-review process so that you can give your feedback orally and ask any questions.*

*For your presentation you will each have a “booth” to display your poster, and you will have to be present for at least **20 minutes** in front of your poster to answer questions and present to those attending as they walk around the room. For the remaining time in the segment you can walk around and look at your classmates posters, ask them questions, offer feedback, or reflect on their work.*

### Overview of the Final Assignment Tasks:

Task	Due date and time
Send draft of final written assignment for peer-review	May 26th, 12:00pm
Oral presentation and poster	May 29th, 17:15 - 20:00
Submit written feedback to your peers	May 30th, 12:00pm
Submit final written assignment	June 2nd, 23:59

## Assessment Criteria and Related Learning Outcomes

NOTE: This is a graded assignment (3-4-5), read by an external examiner. If you do not meet the deadline, the assignment will not be passed. For students that fail this assignment, there will be a re-examination assignment later.

The following grading criteria will be used for assessment (alongside the critical thinking criteria). Note that this paper is graded and will determine your grade for the course. For attaining a grade higher than 3, the criteria should be met to a high or very high degree. For attaining a pass/3, the criteria should be sufficiently met. When assignments are graded, the ability of the student to meet the assignment deadline is part of the assessment. Contact us if you require an extension.

- **Analysis & discussion:** Coherent argumentation, with relevant arguments that are supported by the literature and/or other relevant sources. Relevant different perspectives and interpretations are analysed and discussed. The student shows capacity for independent analysis and critical reflection on referenced material.
- **Connection to theory & literature:** Sufficient connection to core/central theoretical frameworks. There are relevant references to the literature and/or lectures or other relevant sources. Key perspectives and viewpoints are discussed.
- **Originality & creativity:** Expression of original connections between (and/or development of) different (scientific) perspectives and experiences. The student argues well for their opinions and choices.
- **Completeness, clarity & precision:** The language is clear and comprehensible. References and other formal aspects of the text are satisfactory and in accordance with the requirements of the assignment. The course goals that the assignment relates to are met. The student answers the questions fully.

In order to enhance your writing and paper, we suggest taking into consideration the following items:

- **Understanding.** Are there any obvious misinterpretations of the literature or central arguments in the report?
- **Completeness.** Are any of the central and relevant views/perspectives/standpoints in the literature left out in the report without obvious reasons?
- **Literature.** Is there a lack of relevant references to the literature in the report? Is it possible to assess whether or not the student has read and assimilated the literature?
- **Coherence/clarity.** Is the report comprehensible, well-structured with all parts well integrated?
- **Argumentation.** Do the students argue well for their own viewpoints?
- **Independent thinking.** Are there any independent and clear multi-disciplinary reflections in the report that bring in new elements to the case?

### Related course goals as written in the syllabus

- 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 own role in the causes and solutions of sustainability issues

## References and Plagiarism

You will have to refer to course literature when writing your paper, even if you focus on problems and challenges not mentioned in the course. **Make at least two references to your chosen course book, one reference to the mandatory literature and one reference to the recommended literature provided in the week relating to your chosen actor.** Beyond this, you are free and encouraged to refer to lectures and other literature. Of course, make sure that everything is correctly referenced or cited throughout the text and in the reference list.

With referencing, it is not only crucial to know *when* to reference it is also important to know *how* to do it properly and consistently. In this paper we want you to **use the Harvard system** when making references. You can find a very pedagogic and thorough guide on how to do it on this link: <http://library.unimelb.edu.au/recite> .

We strongly recommend that you do take a look at this to avoid any misunderstandings.

### Plagiarism

As part of university policy, all submissions will be checked for plagiarism via Urkund.

You can read more about how Urkund works and what is considered plagiarism here: [http://www.ibg.uu.se/digitalAssets/516/516742\\_urkund\\_plagiarism\\_handbook\\_en.pdf](http://www.ibg.uu.se/digitalAssets/516/516742_urkund_plagiarism_handbook_en.pdf)

You can also read more on how Uppsala University deals with plagiarism and cheating here: [http://www.uu.se/en/students/your\\_rights/cheating/](http://www.uu.se/en/students/your_rights/cheating/)

The Uppsala Student Union also provides good information and tips on how to reference properly to avoid plagiarism and they can always help you if you need advice or support in your contact with the university and/or institutions. <http://www.uppsalastudentkar.se/international-students/studying-sweden/studying/plagiarism>

**Contact us if you have any questions**

**Good Luck!**

**Nicola and Imogen**