

Unit 3. Philosophies of sustainability

Reading assignments

Date	Reading	Discussion/presentations
Thursday, Feb. 17	Fuller; Steinberg	Transcendentalism
Tuesday, Feb. 22	Edwards I (1-23); Brundtland	World Commission on Environment and Development
Thursday, Feb. 24	Edwards II (49-63); Peterson I (7-22)	Sustainability principles
Tuesday, Mar. 1	Peterson II (31-57)	Sustainability in Tacoma

Learning objectives and assessments

1. Be familiar with ideas underlying 19th century industrialism, transcendentalism, and early sustainability (Fuller; Steinberg; Edwards I).
 - a) Summarize contributions of transcendentalists Emerson, Thoreau, and Fuller, and environmentalists Muir, Leopold, Carson, and Nelson, in chronological order.
 - b) Describe stakeholders appearing in Fuller's portrayal of Niagra Falls.
 - c) Describe stakeholders appearing in Steinberg's portrayal of New England lakes.
 - d) Compare values inherent in a transcendentalist's approach to nature (e.g., Fuller's) with those of 19th century industrialists and their opponents (e.g., Josiah French and James Worster).
 - e) Describe Edwards' three fundamental changes common to social revolutions.
 - f) Describe Edwards' "three E's plus one" principles of sustainability.
 - g) Contrast the charges, methods, and composition of the WCED vis a vis those of the Brandt and Palme Commissions.
 - h) Discuss ecological dimensions associated with the main recommendations of WCED (e.g., interlocking crises, risk assessment, trade policy).
2. Be familiar with practical aspects of sustainability initiatives (Edwards II; Peterson).
 - a) State the precautionary principle.
 - b) Summarize the "Natural Step" framework, and critique its scientific basis.
 - c) Describe and critique key features of Tacoma's sustainable development model (e.g., Why should sustainability be the work of the local, as opposed to state or national, level of government?).
 - d) Describe and critique Peterson's comparison of feedback loops between citizen action and consequences at the local vs global scale.
 - e) Compare Edwards' triple bottom line framework to Peterson's Quadruple Bottom-Line.