

**Circular Economy for Sustainability Professionals (SUMA PS5470)** 

Thursdays: 6 - 8PM

3 credits

Instructor: Stephanie Kersten-Johnston, Adjunct Professor, sj2884@columbia.edu (917) 991 6032

**Office Hours:** Office hours are held by appointment in 2929 Broadway 5<sup>th</sup> floor. To schedule an appointment, please

contact me by email.

**Response Policy:** Students can expect me to respond to emails within 48 hours during workweek and weekends. For

urgent queries students may text me and I will respond or call ASAP.

Facilitator/Teaching Assistant, if applicable: TBD

Office Hours: TBD Response Policy: TBD

#### **Course Overview**

Today, we operate in a "linear" (take, make, dispose) economy that is defined by a reliance on large quantities of cheap materials and energy that are typically "finite" in nature. This approach is proving unsustainable and presents problems that include the degradation of natural systems, economic and structural waste, as well as "supply" risks, as our planet reaches its physical limits.

Against a backdrop of population growth, these problems are only set to get worse. Yet at the same time, an unprecedented alignment of technological and societal factors is enabling the transition to a new model possible at scale.

A circular economy is an alternative economic model, that is restorative by design, and rather than relying on a constant throughput of newly extracted resources and non-renewable energy, aims to keep materials, products and components constantly at their highest utility and value.

This elective course will delve into both the theory and practical applications of a circular economy. Achieving perfect circularity (which would theoretically be a state of complete systemic regeneration and restoration, optimized resource utility and zero waste) represents potentially transformative system change and will involve a fundamental re-think of many of our structures, systems and processes in the economy at large. At the same time, its value creation potential for businesses, households and the environment alike, is extremely significant. For example, manufacturers can reclaim substantial value from the products they develop by introducing take-back schemes to reclaim components and materials for re-use or recycling, as opposed to allowing them to go to waste as would typically be the case in a linear system.

We will explore the theoretical underpinnings of a circular economy, including systems thinking (taking relevant learnings from biomimicry and industrial ecology). We will look to circular design principles and explore their use in different industries. We will pose the question of which stakeholders can help to facilitate this transition to circularity, and what enablers, in the form of policy and financing, will need to be in place to allow it to progress.

The exploration of new and emerging business models will form a significant part of this class. From sharing models to "product as a service" models, these new ways of doing business provide inherent opportunities and incentives for businesses to re-think how they can create value while simultaneously optimizing resource use and remaining at the competitive edge.

The course will explore real-life examples of circular economic thinking in specific industries, such as the fashion industry, as well as looking at its application in a geographic context through the lens of cities, and examining standalone infrastructure, such as waste management.

The class will comprise a series of lectures, supported by case-study based assignments that will help to familiarize students with the challenges that apply to circular economic thinking in different geographical, industry and economic contexts. An important aspect of the course will be learning how to link systems thinking with effective stakeholder engagement to facilitate change.



This class will be ideal for graduate students and young professionals who have a good basic understanding of economic principles and are keen to explore an alternative approach to traditional sustainability, which has increasingly become focused on using less resources, without addressing the more systemic flaws we face in our economy.

Upon completion of this class, students will possess sufficient knowledge to discuss the merits of a circular economy and its applications with potential employers. This course will benefit anyone with an interest in a career in sustainability, particularly (but not exclusively) in the corporate and non-profit sectors, in operations, design, strategy or communications.

## **Learning Objectives**

While elements of circular economy thinking have been around for some time, as an approach it has recently gained significant momentum. It is a rapidly evolving area, particularly when it comes to implementation. For that reason, the goal is not necessarily to learn about the circular economy as it applies to all industries or to understand every aspect of its successful application. Instead the course aims to provide students with firm knowledge of the underlying principles and approaches, as well as allowing them to practice a systems-focused mindset applied to a number of potential applications. During the course, students will:

- Identify critical aspects of circular economy terminology and vocabulary and learn to speak authoritatively about the merits and challenges of this approach
- Develop the skills to assess and evaluate opportunities for the use of circular economy thinking and approaches
- Apply systems thinking and circular design approaches to a range of real-world challenges
- Evaluate systems in a way that identifies their biological and technical materials/components
- Establish the key enablers and barriers for circular economy implementation in general, and as they relate to financing, policy, stakeholder management, business models and industry/application specifics
- Define ways to begin implementation and measure progress and success in circular economy
- Construct a response to a specific sustainability challenge that employs what they have learned about circular economy



## Readings

#### Required readings

- Acaroglu, Leyla: Tools for Systems Thinkers: The 6 Fundamental Concepts of Systems Thinking (<u>Available on medium.com</u>), 2017. Web. (3 pages)
- Benyus, Janine. *Biomimicry*. (Harper Perennial, 2002). Print. Chapter 1, p1-10 (10 pages)
- Benyus, Janine: Video. Biomimicry in action, TED Talk, (2009). Available here. (20 min)
- Brown, Tim: Design & the circular economy Circular Design Guide. Available here.
- BSI. "Executive Briefing: BS 8001 a Guide". (BSI, 2017). Web. (6 pages) Available here
- Cabrera Research Lab, Video: "NEW Systems-thinking: A Little Film About a Big Idea", 2015. (Available here)
- Circle Economy, Fabric TNO and Gemeente Amsterdam, "Circular Amsterdam: A vision and action agenda for the city and metropolitan area", 2016. Web. (47 pages) <u>Available here</u>
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. p36-117 (81 pages). Available here.
- Circulate News (Ellen MacArthur Foundation), "Journey to the Circular City". Web. (5 pages). Available here.
- Despeisse, M., Baumers, M et al. "Unlocking value for a circular economy through 3D printing: A research agenda",
   February 2017. Elsevier. Technological Forecasting and Social Change Volume 115, pages 75-84 (10 pages).
- DG Environment Consortium. "Scoping study to identify potential circular economy actions, priority sectors, material flows & value chains", August 2014. Web. Chapters 4-7, p15-72 (57 pages) <u>Available here.</u>
- Donella Meadows Institute: "In a World of Systems". Video. 2016. (Available here) (9 min)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Circular Consumer Electronics: An Initial Exploration". 2018. PDF <u>Available here</u>. (17 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Delivering the Circular Economy: A Toolkit for Policymakers" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2015. Web. p39-88 (49 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Towards the Circular Economy Vol. 1: Economic and Business Rationale for an Accelerated Transition" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2013. Web: p6-62 (56 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Achieving 'Growth Within" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. p16-52 (36 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the Future of Plastics". Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2016. Web. (92 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation (in cooperation with Granta and LIFE). "Circularity Indicators. An Approach to Measuring Circularity: Project Overview", May 2015. Web. (12 pages) Available here.
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Video: Amsterdam Exploring the Sharing City, DIF 2014. <u>Available here.</u> (32min, 30 sec)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Urban Biocycles" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. (36 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation & CE100, "Water and Circular Economy: A White Paper, 2018 (Available here) (18 pages)
- Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. *A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy*. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2016. Print.
  - o Chapter 5, The Circular Economy of Soil, p87-103 (16 pages)
  - o Chapter 6, Remanufacturing and the Circular Economy, p107-127 (20 pages)
  - Chapter 11: Circularity Indicators, p195-210 (15 pages)
  - o Chapter 10: Cities as Flows in a Circular Economy, p177-193 (16 pages)
- ING Economics Department. "Rethinking finance in a Circular Economy", May 2015. Web. Section 4: p 34-52 (18 pages)
- Kim, Daniel. Introduction to Systems Thinking, Pegasus Communications, 1999. Print. (21 pages) (Available here)
- Mazzucato, Mariana. The Value of Everything: Making and Taking in the Global Economy. Penguin Random House, 2018.
   Print. Introduction & Chapter 1, p1-56 (56 pages)
- McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things. (North Point, 2002).
   Print.
  - o Chapter 2: p45-67 (22 pages)
  - o Chapter 3, p68-91 (23 pages)
  - o Chapter 4, Waste Equals Food, p92-117 (25 pages)
- McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. *The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability Designing for Abundance*. New York: North Point, 2013. Print. Chapter 2: Houston we have a solution, p53-83 (30 pages)
- Raworth, Kate, Video: "Why it's time for 'Doughnut Economics", 2014. (Available here)



#### School of Professional Studies

## Master of Science in Sustainability Management

- Ross, M. (Producer), & Morgan, A. (Director). (2015). Video documentary: *The True Cost*. United States: Life is My Movie Entertainment; Untold Creative LLC (1h 32 min): <a href="https://truecostmovie.com/">https://truecostmovie.com/</a>
- Rutqvist, Jakob and Peter Lacy. From Waste to Wealth: The Circular Economy Advantage (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).
   Print. Section II, pages 68-114 (46 pages)
- Stahel, W. Circular economy. Nature 53. Macmillan, 2016, p435-438 (3 pages) Available here
- The Ex'tax Project, "New Era. New Plan. Europe. A Fiscal Strategy for an Inclusive, Circular Economy." The Ex'Tax Project Foundation, 2016. Web. Chapter 3-5, p57-84 (27 pages) <u>Available here.</u>
- The Recycling Partnership. "The 2016 State of Curbside Report", January 2017. Web. (25 pages)
- Webster, Ken. *The Circular Economy: A Wealth of Flows*. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2015. Print.
  - o Introduction & Chapter 1-3, p7-61 (54 pages)
  - O Chapter 4, Through the Macroscope, p63-87 (24 pages)
  - o Chapter 5, p89-105 (16 pages)
  - o Chapter 6, Social Capital, Markets and Money in a Circular Economy, p108-125 (17 pages)
  - o Chapter 9, The Regenerative Biological Cycle at Scale, p159-173 (14 pages)
  - o Chapter 10, p175-189 (14 pages)

#### Recommended readings

- Amendolare, Nicholas. "What is the tragedy of the commons?" TED-Ed, 2017. (<u>Available here</u>) (5 min)
- Benyus, Janine. *Biomimicry*. (Harper Perennial, 2002). Print. (297 pages)
- Circle-Economy & The City of Amsterdam: "Circular Amsterdam", 2018. Web. Multiple Resources Available here.
- Circulate News. Future of Cities: A New Approach to Urban Space. <u>Available here.</u>
- Despeisse, M., Baumers, M et al. "Unlocking value for a circular economy through 3D printing: A research agenda", February 2017. Elsevier. Technological Forecasting and Social Change Volume 115, pages 75-84 (10 pages).
- Directorate General for Internal Policies, European Parliament. "Leasing Society: Study", November 2012. PDF <u>Available</u> <u>Here</u>. Chapters 1-4: p9-51 (41 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Achieving 'Growth Within'" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. Chapters 3 & 4, p70-92 (22 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation (in cooperation with Granta and LIFE). "Circularity Indicators. An Approach to Measuring Circularity: Methodology", May 2015. Web. (98 pages) <u>Available here.</u>
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Delivering the Circular Economy: A Toolkit for Policymakers" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2015. Web. p91-146 Denmark case study (55 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation Educational Resources: Schools of Thought (<u>Available here</u>)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Intelligent Assets: Unlocking the Circular Economy Potential" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2016. Web. p28-63 (35 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "The New Plastics Economy: Catalysing Action" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. (49 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Towards the Circular Economy Vol. 2: Opportunities for the Consumer Goods Sector" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2013. Web. (101 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Towards the Circular Economy Vol. 3: Accelerating the Scale-Up Across Global Supply Chains" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2014. Web. Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4, p11-64 (53 pages)
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Urban Biocycles" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. (36 pages)
- Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. *A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy*. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2016. Print.
  - o Chapter 3, Towards a Regenerative Food System, p49-61 (12 pages)
  - o Chapter 4, Ecosystems as a Unifying Model for Cities and Industry, p63-85 (22 pages)
  - o Chapter 8, Broader Lessons from Self-Organising Traffic Lights in City Transport Systems, p143-155 (12 pages)
  - Chapter 9, Challenges and Capabilities for Scaling up Circular Economy Business Models A Change Management Perspective, p157-175 (18 pages)
- Graedel, T.E. and Allenby, B.R. *Industrial Ecology* (Second Edition). New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2003. Print. p183-227 (43 pages) and p268-283, (23 pages)



#### School of Professional Studies

## Master of Science in Sustainability Management

- Gullingsrud, Annie. Fashion Fibers: Designing for Sustainability. (Bloomsbury, 2017). Print. (293 pages)
- London Waste and Recycling Board (LWRAB), "London's Circular Economy Route Map", 2017. Web (60 pages) <u>Available here</u>
- Haskel, J & Westlake, S. Capitalism without Capital. Princeton University Press, 2018. Print. (242 pages).
- Lovins, B, Amory, Michael Braungart et al. *A New Dynamic: Effective Business in A Circular Economy*. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2013. Print.
  - o Chapter 2: A Concise Guide to the Circular Economy, p19-28 (9 pages)
  - Chapter 8: Rebuilding Economic Vitality, Rev® the World, by Sally Goerner and Randolph Voller, p112-128 (16 pages)
  - o Chapter 9: White Goods/Washing Machines Business Case Study, p129-142 (13 pages)
  - Chapter 10: Implementing a Circular and Performance Economy through Business Model Innovation, p143-156 (13 pages)
- Mazzucato, Mariana. The Value of Everything: Making and Taking in the Global Economy. Penguin Random House, 2018.
   Print. (280 pages).
- Meadows, Donnella. Thinking in Systems: A Primer. Chelsea Green Publishing, 2008. Print. (185 pages).
- McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things. (North Point, 2002).
   Print. (193 pages)
- McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. *The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability Designing for Abundance*. New York: North Point, 2013. Print. (217 pages)
- Raworth, K. Doughnut Economics. Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist. Random House, 2017. Print. (250 pages)
- Schenck, Rita C. "LCA for Mere Mortals. A Primer on Life Cycle Assessment" (IERE, 2000). Web. (103 pages) <u>Available</u> here
- The Ex'tax Project, "New Era. New Plan. Europe. A Fiscal Strategy for an Inclusive, Circular Economy. The Ex'Tax Project Foundation, 2016. Web. (196 pages) of particular interest are chapters 7 & 8 Available here.
- Vlaanderen, Tessa. "Vlaanderen, Tessa. "Accelerating growth of the US Remanufacturing Industry: A Stakeholder guide".
   2018. (42 pages) Available here
- Working Group FinanCE. "Money Makes the World Go Round (and will it help to make the economy circular as well?)", March 2016. Web. Sections 2 & 3, p35-68 (33 pages) <u>Available here.</u>

#### Resources

Course Specific Tools

I recommend exploring the following resources to provide additional information and examples:

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/04/8-videos-that-explain-the-circular-economy/

https://www.circulardesignguide.com/

https://kumu.io/ellenmacarthurfoundation/educational-resources#circular-economy-general-resources-map/key-for-general-resources-map

https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/case-studies

https://www.thinkdif.co/

https://medium.com/circulatenews

https://www.systemsfieldbook.org/

https://thesystemsthinker.com/

https://www.kateraworth.com/blog/

https://www.greenbiz.com/topics/circular-economy

https://www.sustainablebrands.com/

https://biomimicry.net/

https://www.circle-economy.com/

http://www.closedlooppartners.com/

http://www.symbiosis.dk/en/



#### Columbia University Library

Columbia's extensive library system ranks in the top five academic libraries in the nation, with many of its services and resources available online: <a href="http://library.columbia.edu/">http://library.columbia.edu/</a>. The Columbia University Libraries offer many services to faculty including direct contact with librarians who will build custom queries and set up custom databases for your course. They also work one on one with students and consult with faculty to build research projects for courses. Many faculty services are available via CUL/IS such as subject guides (<a href="http://library.columbia.edu/find/digital-collections.html">http://library.columbia.edu/find/digital-collections.html</a>) and how to request an appointment with a librarian to review library, archival, print and electronic resources, including primary sources, to customize resources for their course (<a href="https://library.columbia.edu/find/request/reference/consultation.html">https://library.columbia.edu/find/request/reference/consultation.html</a>)

#### SPS Academic Resources

The Office of Student Affairs provides students with academic counseling and support services such as online tutoring and career coaching: <a href="http://sps.columbia.edu/student-life-and-alumni-relations/academic-resources">http://sps.columbia.edu/student-life-and-alumni-relations/academic-resources</a>.

## **Course Requirements (Assignments)**

In total, there are 10 assignments for this class. The deliverables consist of nine individual writing assignments and a group term project. Each assignment is due at the beginning of class on Thursday of that week (e.g. Assignment #1 is due at the beginning of class on 1/24; assignment #2 is due at the beginning of class on 1/31 etc.)

Four assignments are Point-of-View (POV) writing assignments. POV writing deliverables should be no more than one page in length. You will be asked to share your point-of-view on specific class topics and/or weekly readings. These assignments are designed to provide you with the opportunity to internalize each week's class topic. Your work will be evaluated individually and each POV writing assignment is worth 5% of your final grade.

Five assignments are Case Study assignments. Case study deliverables should be no more than three pages in length. You will be asked to use specific tools and/or reading material to conduct a straightforward analysis of a situation and present your findings and/or suggested solutions to a specific dilemma. These assignments are designed to test your understanding of key concepts. Your work will be evaluated individually. Case studies will include an answer to the dilemma, rationale to support that answer and evidence, calculations, logic and assumptions behind the rationale where relevant. work will be evaluated individually, and each Case Study assignment is worth 5% of your final grade.

During the course of the semester, you will also complete a term project in groups of approximately four, producing a term project report and delivering a summary oral presentation/pitch. Over the course of the semester, in your group, you will explore the following scenario, ultimately pitching a product, solution or process that you propose could address this "what if...?" scenario:

What if... we faced a global shortage of petrochemicals that would effectively limit our ability to rely on virgin, linear plastics by the end of 2020? What solution(s) would you propose to help us fulfil a need (either from an industry or consumer perspective) that currently uses such plastic applications?

You will demonstrate having achieved the learning goals for the course by including the following in your report, summarized in an engaging way in your presentation:

#### **Background research**

- What need/problem are you solving for that currently uses virgin/linear plastic applications?
- What is your industry of focus i.e. who are your customers and what do they require?
- Who are your (potential) competitors, and why is your solution superior (if relevant)?

#### **Business case**

- Why is this problem/market suited for circular disruption?
- What is the market opportunity?
- What are the barriers you face?



#### School of Professional Studies

## Master of Science in Sustainability Management

- What does the current system look like what are the networks, enablers, active businesses, key stakeholders, communities & supply chains?
- Why does your solution make sense in this context?

## Circular approach and implementation i.e. your proposed product, solution or process

- Present your chosen application/solution referencing its circular features e.g. design approach/system/business model
- Draw on best practice/examples to demonstrate feasibility
- Identify key enablers and potential barriers to achieving this
- Work through the economic viability of your proposal vs current reality

#### Implementation, route to market and scalability

- Suggest an plan for implementation and an approach to measuring the success for your newly imagined application/solution in relation to it circular credentials
- What is your route to market?
- What are your options for scaling?
- What are your immediate next steps?

## **Evaluation/Grading**

100 Points Total divided as follows:

#### Attendance and class participation (10 Points)

- Attendance (1 point removed for each unexcused absence up to 5). You must notify the instructor and CGA of your reason for absence by midday on the day of class at the latest for this to be considered as an "excused" absence.
- Active participation in class up to 5 points are available for presenting, posing questions, and suggesting answers.

## Point-of-View writing assignments (5 points each, for total of 20 points)

- 2 points for providing a summary of the key points from article/topic discussion
- 2 points for expressing the strengths and weaknesses of the position as well as a taking a clear stance
- 1 point for presenting within the length limits

#### Case Study assignments (5 points each, for total of 25 points)

- 2 points for answering the dilemma presented
- 2 points for using calculations, data and/or cited evidence to support the answer
- 1 point for presenting within the length limits

#### **Term project (45 points)**

- 30 points for the report content and coverage (in line with criteria provided)
- 10 points for the summary presentation/pitch, including content and style/layout
- 5 points for peer evaluation: your student peers will assign points, from 0-100 based on the following evaluation criteria, and average scores will be used for peer evaluation points:
  - Individual grade (from your group) to reflect your performance during work on the term project (25%)
  - Individual grade (from the other students) for presentation delivery style (25%)
  - Group grade (from the other students) for presentation content (25%)
  - Group grade (from the other students) for presentation style and layout (25%)

ASSIGNMENT	% Weight
Attendance and class participation	10%
Term project	45%
4 x POV writing assignments	20%
5 x Case study assignments	25%

#### FINAL GRADING SCALE

Grade	Points
<b>A</b> +	98–100
A	93–97
A-	90–92
B+	87–89
В	83–86
B-	80–82
<b>C</b> +	77–79
С	73–76
C-	70–72
D	60–69
F	59 and below



#### **Course Policies**

#### Participation and Attendance

I expect you to come to class on time and thoroughly prepared. I will keep track of attendance and look forward to an interesting, lively and confidential discussion. If you miss an experience in class, you miss an important learning moment and the class misses your contribution. Absences will affect your grade.

#### Late work

There are 10 deliverables. The nine writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class each Thursday via Canvas. It is your responsibility to ensure that I receive your submission. There will be an automatic 1 point reduction in score for deliverables submitted up to a day late. No points will be awarded to any deliverable submitted over 24 hours after the due date/time. Teams will present their term projects to the class at the end of the semester, and the term project report will be due at the time of the presentations.

#### **School Policies**

#### Copyright Policy

Please note—Due to copyright restrictions, online access to this material is limited to instructors and students currently registered for this course. Please be advised that by clicking the link to the electronic materials in this course, you have read and accept the following:

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

#### Academic Integrity

Columbia University expects its students to act with honesty and propriety at all times and to respect the rights of others. It is fundamental University policy that academic dishonesty in any guise or personal conduct of any sort that disrupts the life of the University or denigrates or endangers members of the University community is unacceptable and will be dealt with severely. It is essential to the academic integrity and vitality of this community that individuals do their own work and properly acknowledge the circumstances, ideas, sources, and assistance upon which that work is based. Academic honesty in class assignments and exams is expected of all students at all times.

SPS holds each member of its community responsible for understanding and abiding by the SPS Academic Integrity and Community Standards posted at <a href="http://sps.columbia.edu/student-life-and-alumni-relations/academic-integrity-and-community-standards">http://sps.columbia.edu/student-life-and-alumni-relations/academic-integrity-and-community-standards</a>. You are required to read these standards within the first few days of class. Ignorance of the School's policy concerning academic dishonesty shall not be a defense in any disciplinary proceedings.

#### Accessibility

Columbia is committed to providing equal access to qualified students with documented disabilities. A student's disability status and reasonable accommodations are individually determined based upon disability documentation and related information gathered through the intake process. For more information regarding this service, please visit the University's Health Services website: <a href="http://health.columbia.edu/services/ods/support">http://health.columbia.edu/services/ods/support</a>.



# **Course Schedule/Course Calendar**

Date	<b>Topics and Activities</b>	Readings (due on this day)	Assignments
1/24	A Circular Economy: Why? Topics  Course introduction, requirements and objectives for the class  Overview of the key principles of Circular Economy (background, rationale, basic theory, schools of thought)  Megatrends, imperatives and enablers  Term project Activities  Introductions  Course overview  Lecture  Discussion	<ul> <li>Required:</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Towards the Circular Economy Vol. 1: Economic and Business Rationale for an Accelerated Transition" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2013. Web: p6-62 (56 pages)</li> <li>Webster, Ken. The Circular Economy: A Wealth of Flows. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2015. Print. Introduction &amp; Chapter 1-3, p7-61 (54 pages)</li> <li>McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things. New York: North Point, 2002. Print. Chapter 2: p45-67 (22 pages)</li> <li>Recommended:</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation Educational Resources: Schools of Thought (Available here)</li> <li>Lovins, B, Amory, Michael Braungart et al. A New Dynamic: Effective Business in A Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2013. Print. Chapter 2, A Concise Guide to the Circular Economy, p19-28 (9 pages)</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Towards the Circular Economy Vol. 3: Accelerating the Scale-Up Across Global Supply Chains" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2014. Web. Chapters 1 &amp; 2, p11-36 (25 pages)</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Intelligent Assets: Unlocking the Circular Economy Potential" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2016. Web. p28-63 (35 pages)</li> </ul>	Personal bio (Due 1/24)
1/31	A Circular Economy: What?  Topics  Rethinking existing economic systems and constructs Systems thinking Education and mindsets  Activities Lecture	<ul> <li>Required:         <ul> <li>Video: "NEW Systems-thinking: A Little Film About a Big Idea", Cabrera Research Lab, 2015. (Available here)</li> <li>Video: "In a World of Systems", Donella Meadows Institute, 2016. (Available here). (9 min)</li> <li>Video: "Why it's time for 'Doughnut Economics", Kate Raworth, 2014. (Available here)</li> <li>Webster, Ken. The Circular Economy: A Wealth of Flows. Ellen MacArthur Foundation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Assignment #1: Point-of-view. (Due 1/31)



		Publishing, 2015. Print. Chapter 4, Through the Macroscope, p63-87 (24 pages)  Webster, Ken. <i>The Circular Economy: A Wealth of Flows</i> . Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2015. Print. Chapter 10, p175-189 (14 pages)  **Recommended: Raworth, K. <i>Doughnut Economics. Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist.</i> Random House, 2017. Print. (250 pages)  Amendolare, Nicholas. "What is the tragedy of the commons?" TED-Ed Video. 2017. (Available here) (5 mins)	
2/7	Business Models for a circular economy  Servicization Financial system limitations Activities  Lecture Group workshop	<ul> <li>Required:</li> <li>Webster, Ken. The Circular Economy: A Wealth of Flows. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2015. Print. Chapter 5, p89-105 (16 pages)</li> <li>Rutqvist, Jakob and Peter Lacy. From Waste to Wealth: The Circular Economy Advantage (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). Print. Section II, pages 68-114 (46 pages)</li> <li>ING Economics Department. "Rethinking finance in a Circular Economy", May 2015. Web. Section 4: p 34-52 (18 pages)</li> <li>Recommended:</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Towards the Circular Economy Vol. 3: Accelerating the Scale-Up Across Global Supply Chains" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2014. Web. Chapters 3 &amp; 4, p37-64 (27 pages)</li> <li>Working Group FinanCE. "Money Makes the World Go Round (and will it help to make the economy circular as well?)", March 2016. Web. Sections 2 &amp; 3, p35-68 (33 pages)</li> <li>Lovins, B, Amory, Michael Braungart et al. A New Dynamic: Effective Business in A Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2013. Print. Chapter 9: White Goods/Washing Machines – Business Case Study, p129-142 (13 pages)</li> <li>Lovins, B, Amory, Michael Braungart et al. A New Dynamic: Effective Business in A Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2013. Print. Chapter 10: Implementing a Circular and Performance Economy through Business Model Innovation, p143-156 (13 pages)</li> </ul>	Assignment #2: Point-of-view. (Due 2/7)



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		<ul> <li>Directorate General for Internal Policies, European Parliament. "Leasing Society: Study", November 2012. PDF <u>Available Here</u>. Chapters 1-3: p9-41 (32 pages)</li> <li>Haskel, J &amp; Westlake, S. <i>Capitalism without Capital</i>. Princeton University Press, 2018. Print. (242 pages).</li> </ul>	
2/14	Design Topics  Schools of thought (recap)  "Design for" – different approaches and their considerations  Material selection  Human-centered design  Activities  Lecture  Group workshop	<ul> <li>Required:</li> <li>Tim Brown: Design &amp; the circular economy – Circular Design Guide. Available here.</li> <li>McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things. (North Point, 2002). Print. Chapter 3, p68-91 (23 pages)</li> <li>McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability – Designing for Abundance. New York: North Point, 2013. Print. Chapter 2: Houston we have a solution, p53-83 (30 pages)</li> <li>Benyus, Janine. Biomimicry. (Harper Perennial, 2002). Print. Chapter 1, p1-10 (10 pages)</li> <li>Video: Janine Benyus. Biomimicry in action, TED Talk, (2009). Available here. (20 min)</li> <li>Recommended:</li> <li>https://www.circulardesignguide.com/</li> <li>McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things. (North Point, 2002). Print. (193 pages)</li> <li>McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability – Designing for Abundance. New York: North Point, 2013. Print. (217 pages)</li> <li>Benyus, Janine. Biomimicry. (Harper Perennial, 2002). Print. (297 pages)</li> </ul>	Assignment #3: Case Study. (Due 2/14)
2/21	Policy Considerations  Topics  Approaches and interventions  Municipal, regional, national, supranational and international considerations  Fiscal policy as a case study  Activities  Lecture  Discussions  Group case study workshop	<ul> <li>Required:</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Delivering the Circular Economy: A Toolkit for Policymakers" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2015. Web. p39-88 (49 pages)</li> <li>DG Environment Consortium. "Scoping study to identify potential circular economy actions, priority sectors, material flows &amp; value chains", August 2014. Web. Chapters 4-7, p15-72 (57 pages) Available here.</li> <li>The Ex'tax Project, "New Era. New Plan. Europe. A Fiscal Strategy for an Inclusive, Circular Economy." The Ex'Tax Project</li> </ul>	N/A



		Foundation, 2016. Web. Chapter 3-5, p57-84 (27 pages) Available here.  Recommended:  Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Delivering the Circular Economy: A Toolkit for Policymakers" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. p91-146 - Denmark case study (55 pages)  The Ex'tax Project, "New Era. New Plan. Europe. A Fiscal Strategy for an Inclusive, Circular Economy." The Ex'Tax Project Foundation, 2016. Web. (196 pages) – of particular interest in addition to chapters 3-5 are chapters 7 & 8  Directorate General for Internal Policies, European Parliament. "Leasing Society: Study", November 2012. PDF Available Here. Chapter 4: p42-51 (9 pages)	
2/28	Flows (Part I) Topics  Revisiting systems thinking: stocks and flows  The concept of value; the power of capital; money as information Energy flows Material flows  Activities Lecture Discussions Group case study workshop	<ul> <li>Kim, Daniel. Introduction to Systems Thinking, Pegasus Communications, 1999. Print. (21 pages) (Available here)</li> <li>Webster, Ken. The Circular Economy: A Wealth of Flows. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2015. Print. Chapter 6, Social Capital, Markets and Money in a Circular Economy, p108-125 (17 pages)</li> <li>Mazzucato, Mariana. The Value of Everything: Making and Taking in the Global Economy. Penguin Random House, 2018. Print. Introduction &amp; Chapter 1, p1-56 (56 pages)</li> <li>Stahel, W. Circular economy. Nature 53. Macmillan, 2016, p435-438 (3 pages) Available here</li> <li>Recommended:</li> <li>Meadows, Donnella. Thinking in Systems: A Primer. Chelsea Green Publishing, 2008. Print. (185 pages).</li> <li>Mazzucato, Mariana. The Value of Everything: Making and Taking in the Global Economy. Penguin Random House, 2018. Print. (280 pages).</li> <li>Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2016. Print. Chapter 8, Broader Lessons from Self-Organising Traffic Lights in City Transport Systems, p143-155 (12 pages)</li> </ul>	Assignment #4: Case Study. (Due 2/28)



		• Lovins, B, Amory, Michael Braungart et al. <i>A New Dynamic: Effective Business in A Circular Economy.</i> Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2013. Print. Chapter 8: Rebuilding Economic Vitality, Rev® the World, by Sally Goerner and Randolph Voller, p112-128 (16 pages)	
3/7	Flows (Part II)  Topics      Biological cycle/nutrients     Organics     Bio-based materials  Activities     Lecture     Discussion	<ul> <li>Required:</li> <li>Webster, Ken. The Circular Economy: A Wealth of Flows. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2015. Print. Chapter 9, The Regenerative Biological Cycle at Scale, p159-173 (14 pages)</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Urban Biocycles" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. (36 pages)</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation &amp; CE100, "Water and Circular Economy: A White Paper, 2018 (Available here) (18 pages)</li> <li>Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2016. Print. Chapter 5, The Circular Economy of Soil, p87-103 (16 pages)</li> <li>Recommended:</li> <li>McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things. (North Point, 2002). Print. Chapter 4, Waste Equals Food, p92-117 (25 pages)</li> <li>McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability — Designing for Abundance. New York: North Point, 2013. Chapter 3 &amp; 4, p87-142 (55 pages)</li> <li>Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2016. Print. Chapter 3, Towards a Regenerative Food System, p49-61 (12 pages)</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Towards the Circular Economy Vol. 2: Opportunities for the Consumer Goods Sector" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2013. Web. p38 and p41-53 (13 pages)</li> </ul>	N/A
3/14	Flows (Part III)  Topics  Technical cycle/nutrients	Required: ■ Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the Future of Plastics". Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2016. Web. (92 pages)	Assignment #5: Case Study. (Due 3/14)



	<ul> <li>Industrial ecology and symbiosis</li> <li>3D printing</li> <li>Plastics</li> <li>Activities</li> <li>Materials – group exercise</li> <li>Lecture</li> <li>Discussion</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Despeisse, M., Baumers, M et al. "Unlocking value for a circular economy through 3D printing: A research agenda", February 2017. Elsevier. Technological Forecasting and Social Change Volume 115, pages 75-84 (10 pages).</li> <li>Recommended:         <ul> <li>http://www.symbiosis.dk/en/</li> </ul> </li> <li>Graedel, T.E. and Allenby, B.R. Industrial Ecology (Second Edition). New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2003. Print. Chapter 2, p17-24, and Chapter 22, p268-283, (23 pages)</li> </ul>	
3/28	Flows (Part IV)  Topics  Reverse logistics, re-use, remanufacturing Waste and recycling - challenges  Activities Class Discussion/Q&A Lecture Group activity	<ul> <li>Required:</li> <li>Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation         Publishing, 2016. Print. Chapter 6,         Remanufacturing and the Circular Economy,         p107-127 (20 pages)</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Circular         Consumer Electronics: An Initial Exploration".         2018. PDF Available here. (17 pages)</li> <li>The Recycling Partnership. "The 2016 State of Curbside Report", January 2017. Web. (25 pages)</li> <li>Recommended:</li> <li>Vlaanderen, Tessa. "Vlaanderen, Tessa.         "Growing the Remanufacturing Industry: A Stakeholder Guide", 2018</li> <li>Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation         Publishing, 2016. Print. Chapter 9, Challenges and Capabilities for Scaling up Circular Economy Business Models – A Change Management Perspective, p157-175 (18 pages)</li> </ul>	Assignment #6: Case Study. (Due 3/28)
4/4	Implementation & Measurement Topics  • Approaches to implementation and measurement incl. tools to get started, prioritization, guidance and measurement • Life Cycle Assessment  Activities	<ul> <li>Required:         <ul> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Achieving 'Growth Within'" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. p16-52 (36 pages)</li> <li>Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2016. Print. Chapter 11: Circularity Indicators, p195-210 (15 pages)</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation (in cooperation with Granta and LIFE). "Circularity Indicators. An Approach to Measuring Circularity: Project</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	N/A



	Guest lecture: Georgia Rubenstein, Lead System Change Designer, Forum for the Future	Overview", May 2015. Web. (12 pages)  Available here.  BSI. "Executive Briefing: BS 8001 – a Guide".  (BSI, 2017). Web. (6 pages) Available here  Recommended:  Schenck, Rita C. "LCA for Mere Mortals. A Primer on Life Cycle Assessment" (IERE, 2000). Web. (103 pages) Available here  McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability – Designing for Abundance. New York: North Point, 2013. Print. p66-81 (15 pages)  Graedel, T.E. and Allenby, B.R. Industrial Ecology (Second Edition). New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2003. Print. 183-227 (43 pages)  Ellen MacArthur Foundation (in cooperation with Granta and LIFE). "Circularity Indicators. An Approach to Measuring Circularity: Methodology", May 2015. Web. (98 pages)  Available here.	
4/11	Applications: Pitch Demo & Term Project Pre-Brief  Topics  The roles of key stakeholders in innovation for CE Insight on a range of industries & case studies  Activities Guest lecture & pitch demo: Kate Daly, Executive Director of the Center for the Circular Economy at Closed Loop Partners	No reading is required for this class, but please use the time to familiarize yourself with all of the term project criteria and any additional pre-read material supplied to gain maximum value from this class.  Recommended:  Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "The New Plastics Economy: Catalysing Action" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. (49 pages)	Assignment #7 Point-of-view. (Due 4/11)
4/18	Applications: Circular Cities  Topics Cities as environments Urban Metabolism vs Urban Ecosystem approaches Roadmaps for cities  Activities Lecture	<ul> <li>Required:</li> <li>■ Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation         Publishing, 2016. Print. Chapter 10, Cities as         Flows in a Circular Economy, p177-193 (16 pages)</li> <li>■ Circulate News (Ellen MacArthur Foundation),         "Journey to the Circular City". Web. (5 pages).         <u>Available here</u>.</li> </ul>	N/A



	Discussion     Guest lecture:     [Lecturer details TBD]	<ul> <li>Recommended:         <ul> <li>Circle-Economy &amp; The City of Amsterdam: "Circular Amsterdam", 2018. Web. Multiple Resources Available here.</li> <li>Franconi, Ellen, Brett Bridgeland et al. A New Dynamic 2: Effective Systems in a Circular Economy. Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing, 2016. Print. Chapter 4, Ecosystems as a Unifying Model for Cities and Industry, p63-85 (22 pages)</li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Achieving 'Growth Within" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. Chapter 4, p82-92 (10 pages)</li> <li>Circulate News. Future of Cities: A New Approach to Urban Space. Available here.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
4/25	Applications: Fashion & Textiles  Topics Industry basics The fashion & textiles system and supply chain Business models and opportunities Active industry project Case studies  Activities Lecture Discussion Group activities on supply chain and business model	<ul> <li>Required:         <ul> <li>Video documentary: Ross, M. (Producer), &amp; Morgan, A. (Director). (2015). The True Cost. United States: Life is My Movie Entertainment; Untold Creative LLC (1h 32 min): <a href="https://truecostmovie.com/">https://truecostmovie.com/</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2017. Web. p36-117 (81 pages). <a href="https://example.com/">Available here.</a></li> <li>Recommended:         <ul> <li>Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "Towards the Circular Economy Vol. 2: Opportunities for the Consumer Goods Sector" Ellen MacArthur Foundation. 2013. Web. p38 and p53-63 (11 pages)</li> <li>Gullingsrud, Annie. Fashion Fibers: Designing for Sustainability. (Bloomsbury, 2017). Print. (293 pages)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Assignment #8: Case Study. (Due 4/25)
5/2	Oral presentations/pitches  May be an extended class to accommodate all presentations	No required reading for this class	Assignment #9: Point-of-view. (Due 5/2)



## **Biographies of participants**

Kate Daly is Executive Director of the Center for the Circular Economy at Closed Loop Partners. The Center is a hub for business acceleration, investment, and research on circular solutions for packaging, food, the built environment and apparel & textiles. Kate previously served as Senior Vice President at the NYC Economic Development Corporation, where she oversaw New York City's business development and job creation programs in sectors including advanced manufacturing, smart cities, cleantech, fashion, tech, and media. While at NYCEDC, Kate launched a circular economy strategy for the City that included partnership with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, circular procurement standards, and ideation toward a Circularity Lab pavilion that demonstrates circular principles in the built environment. Prior to NYCEDC Kate served as the Executive Director of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. Kate holds a B.A. from Cornell University and an M.S. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Georgia Rubenstein is Lead System Change Designer in Forum for the Future's Brooklyn office, working with internal and external partners to explore how to drive the system-level change needed for a sustainable future. Her work focuses on process design and facilitation, stakeholder engagement, and system change practice. Georgia recently led Forum's multi-year Beauty & Personal Care Sustainability Project, working with retailers, brands, suppliers, and NGOs in the beauty and personal care sector to collaboratively tackle barriers to bringing more sustainable products to consumers. This project resulted in a beta product sustainability common assessment tool that is now openly available for use by the industry. She has also worked with a number of Forum's partners including Target, Walgreens Boots Alliance, Gap Inc, and Ahold Delhaize to build transformational, future-focused sustainability strategies, and to develop their approaches to issues including circular economy, water stewardship, and formulated product ingredients.

Prior to joining Forum, Georgia led the development of the sustainability program at Environmental Initiative, a Minneapolis-based non-profit that convenes stakeholders to collaboratively solve environmental challenges. Georgia holds a BA in International Development from McGill University and a Master in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

**Guest Lecturer** Content TBD