



JOINT MASTER

SYLLABUS

Name of the course:	Commons, territories and socioecological engagement			
Teacher:	Corinne Vercher-Chaptal			
University / organisation:	Université Sorbonne Paris Nord			
Language of teaching:	English			
ECTS:				
Semester (S1, S2, S3 or S4):	<input type="checkbox"/> S1	<input type="checkbox"/> S2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S3	<input type="checkbox"/> S4
Teaching method(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture courses		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flipped classroom	
	Other:			
Type(s) of evaluation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sitting exam		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written report	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral defence		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group project	
	Other / comments:	The evaluation method takes the form of a final paper (suggested length of 15 pages) on a topic related to the course that they have to identify early on in the course. The work is suggested to be developed in couples. On the last session of the course the students are required to make a presentation about the selected project, the literature review so far and the research question. The duration of the presentation should be between 8 and 10 min, to have an estimated of 5 minutes of Q&A. Time should be adjusted to the amount of groups and length of the session.		
Expected deadline(s) for the evaluation(s)				
Expected date of final results:				
Summary of the content:	<p>On a global scale, the accelerating climate crisis has brought demands to protect global commons (such as oceans, rivers, atmosphere, etc), into public debate. At the local level, auto-organized collective actions are emerging and contributing to the redefinition of productive activities for goods or services in order to align them with collective interest goals. These actions are contributing to the (re)construction of a viable world. Many of these alternatives draw from the tradition of the commons.</p> <p>The commons approach was initiated in the 1980s by Elinor Ostrom and the Bloomington School. This current has centered on investigating the circumstances under which human communities inhabiting diverse natural ecosystems can employ ecosystem resources while preserving its integrity. This demonstrates an initial ecological concern. Ostrom's early work reveals a diversity of self-organized forms of collective action based on institutional arrangements that allow them to maintain their identity and</p>			



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	<p>autonomy under certain conditions. Thus, the commons movement allows us to move beyond the impasse of a conceptual framework based solely on the opposition and/or complementarity between the market and the state, which renders much of the observed alternatives in the field of socio-environmental transitions invisible.</p> <p>Since the first commons were described as « land » or « physical » commons, the field of commons has seen significant developments and now covers a wide range of areas, including knowledge - or informational - commons, urban commons, territorial commons...</p> <p>The objectives of this course are: (1) revisiting the historical construction of the commons approach through the perspective of its main constitutive concepts, (2) studying the diversity of concrete initiatives they give rise to today, (3) considering the internal and external tensions and challenges of sustainability and development of commons initiatives. The course will also question their ability to "form a system" and "create a narrative" as an alternative to dominant productivist and extractivist models.</p>
Indicative list of lectures:	Introduction to the Theory of the Commons, Commons and Common good, From free software to informational commons, Digital commons and cooperative platforms, Urban commons and territorial commons, Substantive economy, reciprocity and commons, ecosystem-centered accounting and commons
Short bibliography:	<p>Benkler Y. (2013), Commons and growth : The essential role of open commons in market economies, <i>The University of Chicago Law Review</i>, 80(3), 1400-1555.</p> <p>Helfrieich S., Bollier D., (eds), 2013, <i>The wealth of the commons</i>, Levellers Press.</p> <p>Hess C. (2008), Mapping the new commons, 12th Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham England, July 14-18, 2008.</p> <p>Hess C., Ostrom L.,(2007) (eds) <i>Understanding knowledge as commons</i>, The MIT Press</p> <p>Ostrom E. (1990), <i>Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Actions</i>, Cambridge University Press</p> <p>Rose C, (2020), <i>Thinkings about the Commons</i>, <i>International Journal of the Commons</i>, 14(1).557-556</p>