

Erling Berge, 23 September 2004

SOS3508 Resource Management: Institutions and Institutional Design

Required reading for the class is the material presented in the lectures and lecture notes. Lectures are in general (but not exclusively) based on the books on the reading list below.

Reading of the texts on the reading list except those by Landa and Soto will cover the required reading. The books by Landa and Soto should be read for inspiration rather than examination.

Up to 40% of the required reading can be replaced by other relevant readings according to the student's choice.

The students are expected to make a class presentation of one relevant article not included on the reading list for example taken from the books by Goodin, Hanna&al, or Williamson.

Reading list (912 pages + 502 pages for Landa and Soto):

Douglas, Mary 1987 "How Institutions Think", London, Routledge and Kegan Paul
Goodin, Robert E (ed.) 1996 "The Theory of Institutional Design", Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1,
Hanna, Susan; Carl Folke, and Karl-Göran Mäler (eds.) 1996 "Rights to Nature", Washington, Island Press, Chapters 7 and 9,
Landa, Manuel de 1997 "A Thousand Years of Non-Linear History", New York, Swerve/ MIT Press,
North, Douglass C. 1990 "Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance", Cambridge, Cambridge University Press,
Ostrom, Elinor 1990 "Governing the Commons. The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action", Cambridge, Cambridge University Press,
Scott, W. Richard 1995 "Institutions and Organisations", London, Sage
Searle, John R. 1995 "The Construction of Social Reality", New York, The Free press, Chapters 1-6,
Soto, Hernando de 2000 "The Mystery of Capital", New York, Basic Books,
Williamson, Oliver E. 1996 "The Mechanisms of Governance", New York, Oxford University Press, Chapter 3,

Suggestions about reading

De Soto's book can be read as an introduction to the basic problem. Next you might want to read Scott and Goodin to get to know the early approaches to institutional theory in sociology, economics, and other social sciences. Goodin also presents the problem of design. De Landa should be read at the end as a somewhat speculative extension of institutional thinking into a dynamic perspective on the theory of social development. The central theoretical texts are the books by Douglas, North, Searle, and Ostrom. Goodin, Hanna&al., and Williamson are collections of independent papers and may be sources of ideas for term papers.

The term paper is stipulated to discuss some topic from the lectures or readings. It is expected to be some 5600-7500 words or 15-20 pages.