

Erling Berge, 11 August 2003

A CROSS-DISCIPLINARY CLASS ON INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN: SOS3508 Resource management: Institutions and institutional design

Based on contributions from political science, neo-institutional economics, sociology, anthropology, biology, history, and philosophy the goal of the class is to understand better how variations in formal institutions affect economic and social development in general and in particular the sustainable use of resources. Today redesigning institutions to improve on the sustainability of resource use is a primary concern for most governments at all levels.

The class will be thought in English if anyone so wishes.

Syllabus:

Room SD 10		
Time:		THEME
1	28 Aug	Introduction to the theme: Institutions and social and economic change Why Institutional design? Institutions: what are they?
2	4 Sep	The construction of social reality: culture, formal vs. informal institutions
3	11 Sep	The customary foundation of institutions
4	18 Sep	Property Rights to Nature Collective action
5	25 Sep	Cooperation and transaction costs
6	2 Oct	Transactions, measurements and information
7	9 Oct	Origin and development I Economic history
8	16 Oct	Origin and development II Centralized governance versus self-governance
9	23 Oct	Evolution of institutions?
10	30 Oct	Design principles I Theoretical views
11	6 Nov	Design principles II Empirical generalisations
12	13 Nov	Policy and design I Theoretical views
13	20 Nov	Policy and design II Empirical generalisations
14	27 Nov	Summary discussion

Reading list:

- 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
- Hanna, Susan; Carl Folke, and Karl-Göran Mäler (eds.) 1996 "**Rights to Nature**", Washington, Island Press,
- 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,
- Peters, B Guy. 1999 "**Institutional Theory in Political Science**", London, Continuum
- Searle, John R. 1995 "**The Construction of Social Reality**", New York, The Free press, pp1-147
- 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, Ch 3 **Transaction Costs Economics**, pp54-87

Some formalities:

Those wanting to take the class for credit are expected to write a term paper.

I am prepared to give written comments twice during the class.

First, on the preliminary outline (abstract etc.), provided I get it no later than 18 September; and second, on a next to last version, provided I get it no later than 30 October. Deadline for delivery of the term paper will be 1. December,