What This Course Is About

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to the Global Commons—those sets of shared resources upon which we depend for life. This not only includes the sky, oceans, and forests, but also cultural resources such as the internet, language, and our genetic code. In addition to the private and public sectors, the commons offers ways of co-governance and co-production that support responsible stewardship of the planet. The course will scan the history of the commons, the enclosure movement, where commons have succeeded and where they have not, and explore how the framework of the commons can provide a hopeful and much-needed vision for planetary sustainability.

In addition to learning about the commons, we will actually have an opportunity to form our own knowledge commons during the four weeks of this course. We will be using on-line tools to do this.

There will be group collaboration projects that focus on commons-related issues. And there will be opportunities to interact with commons practitioners through skype video exchanges.

Learning Objectives:
1. Understand basic concepts about the commons including the history of the commons and the dynamic of enclosing the commons.
2. Understand the principles for building and sustaining successful commons.
3. Contribute to development of the knowledge commons through on-line dialogues and class presentations.
4. Engage in a course project that deepens understanding of a selected issue.
5. Gain new perspectives from guest speakers.
Course Credits: 2.0

When & Where We Will Meet

Course Meetings:
1. Friday, February 4, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
2. Saturday, February 5, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
3. Friday, February 25, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
4. Saturday, February 26, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Course Location:
Room 158 (MBA Wing), Mendoza College of Business

Session I, Friday, February 4, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Note: All readings marked with an asterisk (*) are available on Inside ND.

Prior to class read:

Class outline:
- Introduction to the course, logistics, assignments, grading
- Introduction to each other: why this matters
- Lecture and discussion: The Global Commons
- Participation in Ten Years Hence Lecture Series: Peter Senge
- Guest speaker (via skype video): Jay Bender, commons practitioner
- Building a knowledge commons

Session II, Saturday, February 5, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Class outline:
- Debrief from Friday
- Lecture and discussion: The Water Commons
- Documentary video: Tapped
- Guest speaker (via skype video): Juan Carlos Kaiten, commons practitioner
- Set-up for team projects
• Set-up for on-line forums via the Commons Knowledge Alliance  
  *(BRING YOUR LAPTOP TO CLASS)*  
• Scheduling intersession team calls

Papers on *All That We Share* due on Wed, February 16 by 11:59 pm via email. Criteria for paper to be distributed on February 5.

Presentations on *Team Projects* due on Wed, February 23 by 11:59 pm via email. Criteria for presentations to be distributed on February 5.

**Session III, Friday, February 25, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Prior to class read:
• David Bollier, “Imagining a New Politics of the Commons,”  
  onthecommons.org, 2010 *
• The Earth Charter *

Prior to class browse:
• www.onthecommons.org  
• www.bollier.org

Class outline:
• Lecture and discussion: Building and Sustaining the Commons  
• Group discussion on papers  
• Guest speaker (via skype video): Jay Walljasper, author (*All That We Share*) and editor (onthecommons.org)  
• Video presentation: David Bollier, “The Marginalization of the Commons and What To Do About It”

**Session IV, Saturday, February 26, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Class outline:
• Team project presentations
• What-we-learned exercise: Creating a Crash Course on the Commons
• Summary and Wrap-up

Final Exam

There is no final exam for this course.

Honor Code

All students are expected to abide by all provisions of the Notre Dame Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Core may result in a final grade of F. Please note the following:
• Provide citations where required.
• Individual papers – collaboration with other students is not permitted.
• Group projects and/or group presentations – collaboration is permitted and encouraged.

Grading

Grading for this course is letter graded (A thru F). See the criteria below for each segment being assessed.

1. 25% for class participation and attendance *
2. 25% for on-line participation
3. 35% for team project based on the presentation and supportive documentation
4. 15% for individual paper

Students can receive a maximum of 100 points in the course. Points are allocated for each segment noted above – a maximum of 25 points for class participation, a maximum of 25 points for on-line participation, a maximum of 35 points for the team project, and a maximum of 15 points for the individual paper. Letter grades will then be assigned based on the number of points:

- A = 96 to 100
- A- = 93 to 95
- B+ = 91 to 92
- B = 87 to 90
B- = 85 to 86  
C = 80 to 84  
F = below 80

* Because of the brief nature of this course, attendance is expected at all class sessions. Any absence costs 12 points. As a result, one absence means that the maximum possible grade is a B; two or more absences will result in an F. An absence is defined as not being present for any part of a scheduled class day.

### Summary of Reading Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Leo Burke, “A Common Matter”</td>
<td>Emailed to Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Jay Walljasper, <em>All That We Share</em></td>
<td>Book distributed on Feb 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>David Bollier, “Imagining a New Politics of the Commons”</td>
<td>To be emailed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td><em>The Earth Charter</em></td>
<td>To be emailed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>on the commons website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.onthecommons.org">www.onthecommons.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>David Bollier’s website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bollier.org">www.bollier.org</a></td>
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## Summary of Assignment Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Special Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Participation in on-line forums</td>
<td>Two entries per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Paper on <em>All That We Share</em></td>
<td>Email to instructor by 11:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 23</td>
<td>Project Presentation &amp; Documentation</td>
<td>Email to instructor by 11:59 pm</td>
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