Landscape & the Sustainable Development Oxymoron

COURSE MAR-1006 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & RESEARCH 2019



The course will facilitate a personal and collective investigation about the Sustainable Development concept; the multiple, complementary and sometimes contradictory approaches to it; and very specially, the way in which Sustainable Development can inform planning and design processes in landscape architecture, regional and urban planning, architecture and design.

PART1 (3 credits): A multifaceted study of the Sustainable Development concept through a set of lectures, discussions and reading seminars that will finalize in each session with the collective definition of key Questions and potential Answers (Synthesis, Inquiry & Hypothesis).

- The Sustainable Development concept and the main families of approaches
- Social approaches and activism in Sustainable Development
- Ecology and Quantitative methods in ecological studies (including data analysis)
- Assessing Sustainable Development
- System thinking and Speculating Futures
- Economics and Policies for Sustainable Development
- Landscape and Sustainable Development
- Designing Sustainability Transitions

PART 2 (3 credits) The second part of the course will include the preparation of an individual work in the intersection between the Sustainable Development concept (ontology, specific approaches, assessment methods, etc.) and a specific topic chosen by each student. This final work might be used to advance in the theoretical part of a Master Thesis (master students), to activate the preparation of a Research Plan (applicants for a Doctoral Position) or to initiate the preparation of a Conference paper or Research Article (doctoral students).

This 2nd part will include specific activities and mid-critiques to advance in the development of the main components of a research document (literature review, research questions, methods, analysis of results, discussion, etc.).

