Example course: Environment & Development

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Profile of the course

- MSc course at Wageningen University
- Around 40 MSc students
  - ~50% Dutch
  - ~50% International
- Different disciplines, e.g.:
  - Environmental Science
  - Development Studies
  - Economics
  - Aquaculture and Food Science

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Learning outcomes

After this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. To understand the history and background to contemporary causes and solutions to environmental problems in developing nations
2. To apply key concepts to a relevant event that occurred during the simulation that explains the dilemmas and solutions to environmental problems in developing countries
3. To evaluate key concepts and theories that help to explain the relationship between environment and development
4. To practice analytical skills for critical social science through individual and collaborative academic writing

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Organisation of the course

Week	Monday Lecture	Wednesday Lecture	Friday Tutorial
1	Introduction		Tutorial 1
2	Simulation		
3	Topic 1 - Ecological modernisation		Tutorial 2
4	Topic 2 – Political ecology		Tutorial 3
5	Topic 3 - Common pool resources		Tutorial 4
6	Topic 4 – Global Value Chain analysis		Tutorial 5

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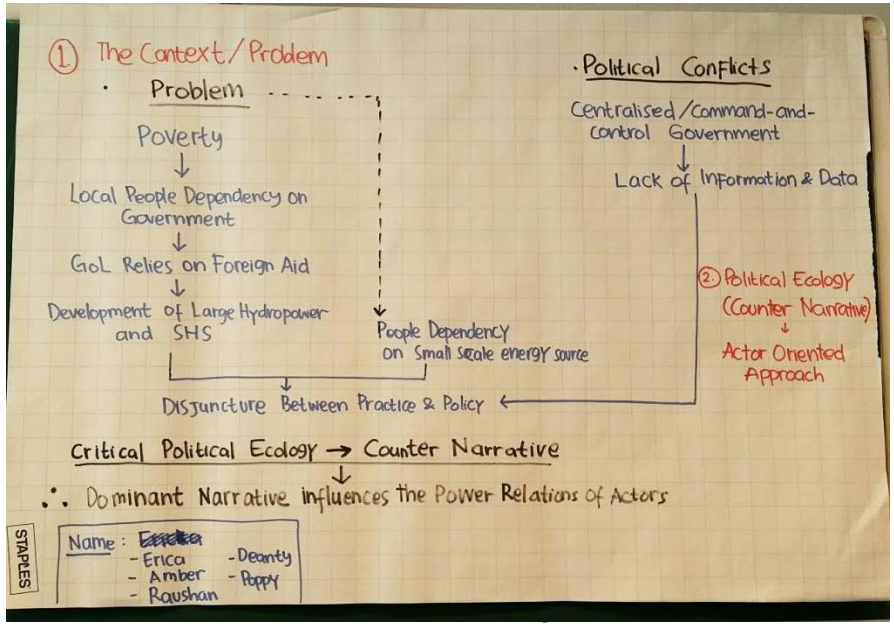
Learning activities

- Lectures
- Reading
- Weekly assignments
- Tutorials (group work/discussions)
- Simulation (role play)
- Paper writing



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SIMULATION
(= role play)

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Simulation – what and why?

What is a simulation?

- Interactive learning activity designed to put theories around the challenges of environment and development into practice through a real and ongoing debate

Why do it?

- Better understand the complexities of the development process and trade-offs with environment
- Gain a greater understanding of the complexities of relationships and interactions between stakeholders in real life – skills for professional careers

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Simulation case: standards for sustainable shrimp in Ecuador

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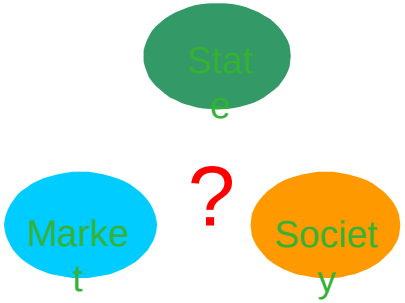

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Different stakeholders

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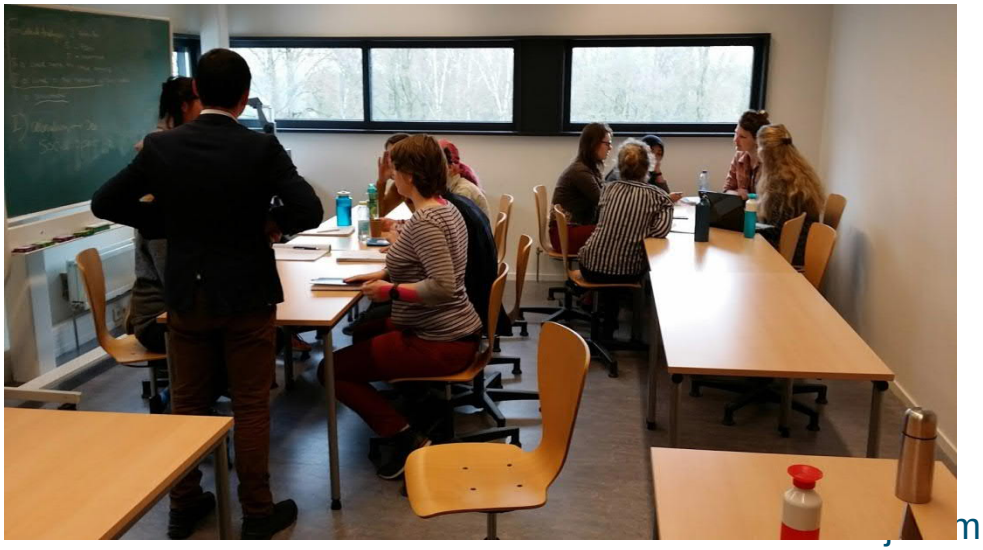
Simulation in pictures



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ASSESSMENT

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Assessment

SIMULATION	+	TUTORIAL ASSIGNMENT	+	RESEARCH ESSAY
30 %		30 %		40 %

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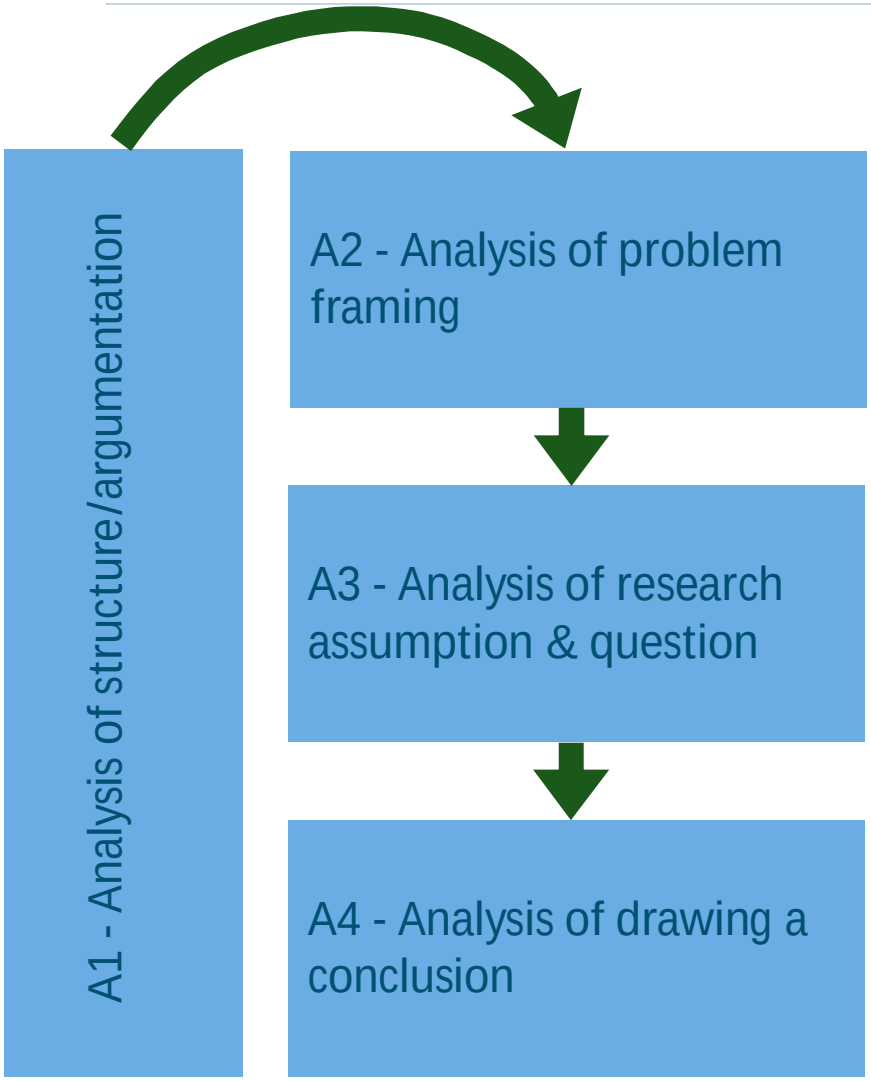
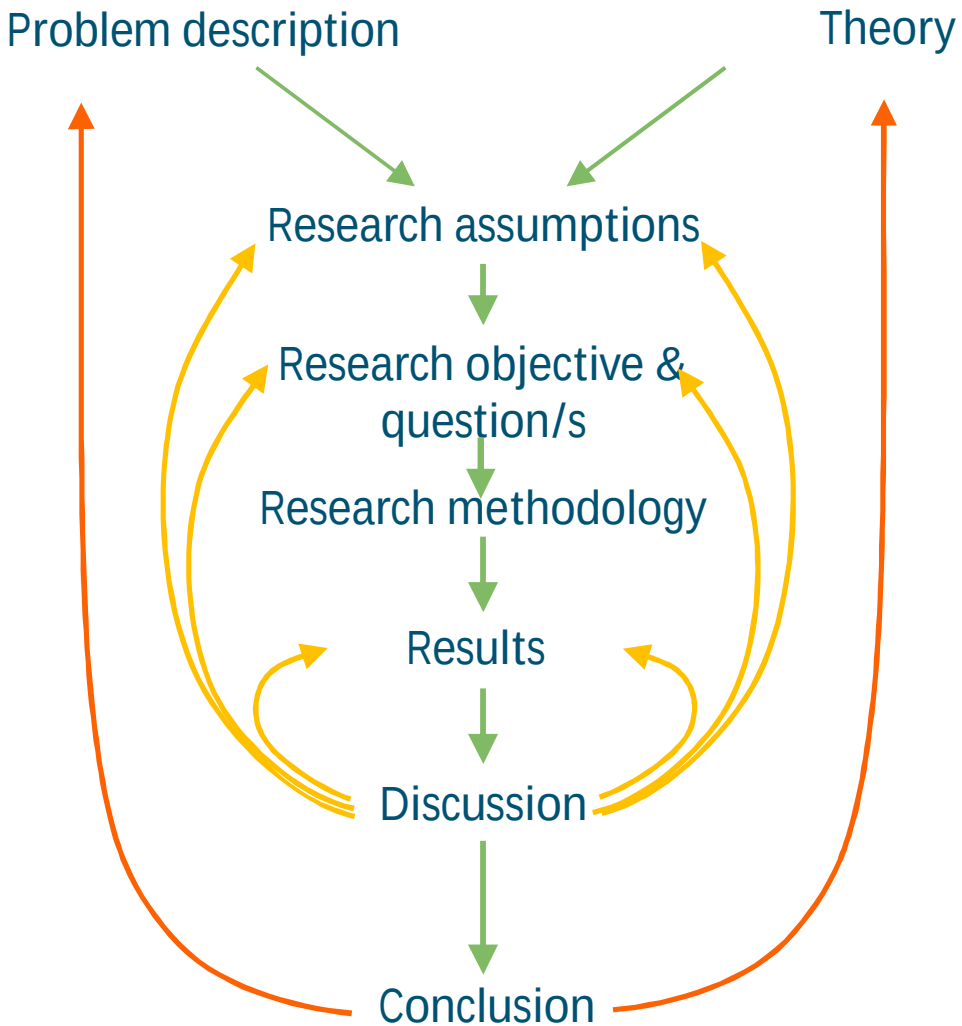
Weekly assignments (30%)





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Simulation (30%)

- Preparation (group mark)
  - Stakeholder position statement
  - Strategy document
- Active participation (individual)
- Debriefing paper (individual)
  - Reflection on simulation
  - Identifying key issues related to environment and development

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Individual Research Paper (40%)

- Demonstrate an understanding of how the concepts and theories presented in the course can help you to analyse the events in the simulation and why these events occurred;
- Discuss what implications these events may have for finding solutions in terms of both environment and development.

4000 words

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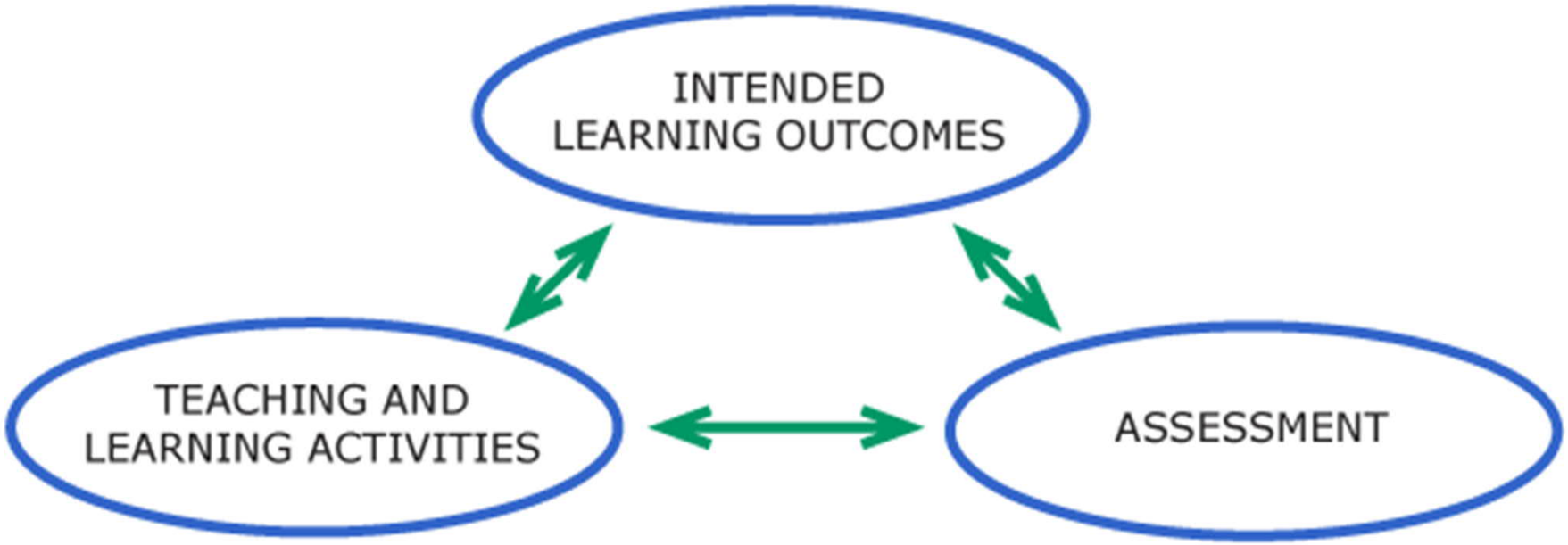
Any questions?



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