

Course title: EUGLOH Open University 2028 spring	Credits: 3
Course classification: free elective	
Type and number of contact hours: lecture	
Assessment method: practical grade	
Position of the course in the curriculum: not linked to a specific semester	
Prerequisites (if any): none	
Course description: a concise yet informative description of the knowledge and material to be acquired. Ecology and economy share the same Greek root, oikos, meaning household or dwelling, yet modern thought has tended to separate them: economy is commonly associated with production, exchange and growth, while ecology is understood as the study of the natural environments within which economic activity takes place. This semester takes inspiration from Bruno Latour's ecological thought and Donella Meadows's systems thinking to explore how these seemingly separate domains are interconnected, and how we might learn to understand and engage with complex systems without reducing them to problems of prediction, control or optimization. In her influential essay "Dancing with Systems", Meadows challenges the assumption that understanding a system means being able to control it. Instead, she advocates attentiveness to feedback, respect for complexity, intellectual humility, responsiveness to change and an expanded sense of responsibility. These ideas offer a valuable framework for reconsidering the relationship between human societies and their environments, and for exploring alternative understandings of economic activity, sustainability and the common good. Latour's work similarly invites us to move beyond the opposition between nature and society, asking how heterogeneous human and non-human actors, forms of knowledge, institutions and material practices participate in composing a shared world. The series brings together perspectives from the humanities, social sciences, environmental studies and systems thinking to examine such questions as ecological responsibility, sustainable economies, multispecies relations, environmental justice, local knowledge and the cultural assumptions underlying economic growth. Particular attention will be paid to the role of the humanities in making complex interdependencies intelligible, bringing different forms of knowledge into dialogue, and enabling communities to imagine and negotiate alternative futures. Rather than approaching ecology as a technical problem requiring expert solutions, the series explores how learning to live within complex systems calls for interpretive, ethical, cultural and imaginative capacities.	
List of the 2–5 most important required and recommended readings (lecture notes, textbooks), including bibliographic details (author, title, publication data, [possibly page numbers], ISBN)	
Latour, Bruno. An Inquiry into Modes of Existence: An Anthropology of the Moderns. Harvard University Press, 2013. Meadows, Donella H. Thinking in Systems. A Primer. Chelsea Green Publishing, 2008.	
List of the prescribed professional competencies and competence elements (knowledge, skills, etc.; Section 7 of the Training and Outcome Requirements) to whose development the course substantially contributes.	
a) Knowledge Understands major theoretical perspectives on complex systems, including feedback loops, resilience, ecological responsibility, and the relationship between human and non-human actors. b) Skills Evaluates alternative approaches to sustainability and environmental decision-making by integrating scientific, cultural, ethical, and local forms of knowledge. c) Attitude Demonstrates intellectual humility and openness towards complexity, uncertainty, and multiple forms of knowledge.	

Appreciates the role of dialogue, collaboration, and diverse perspectives in addressing complex sustainability challenges.

d) Autonomy and Responsibility

Reflects on the ecological and societal impacts of individual and collective actions within complex systems.

Planned number of students: no limit

Additional information This online course is free of charge from EUGLOH. As the course is delivered online, participants need access to the necessary technology and internet to follow the programme.

Course coordinator: Ágnes Matuska

Instructors involved in the course (if any)