



Sustainable Development: Theory & Policy

Week 3 Sustainability as a Knowledge Domain

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1. Key Elements
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3.1 Key Elements

Taking Stock – The
'Checklist'





Theoretical Core – Key Elements

- value on the environment
- preservation of eco-systems
- extending time horizons
- equity considerations (inter- and intra- generation)
- maintenance of an appropriately defined "capital stock"
- key theoretical contentions:
 - non -substitutability: man-made and natural capital
 - uncertainty

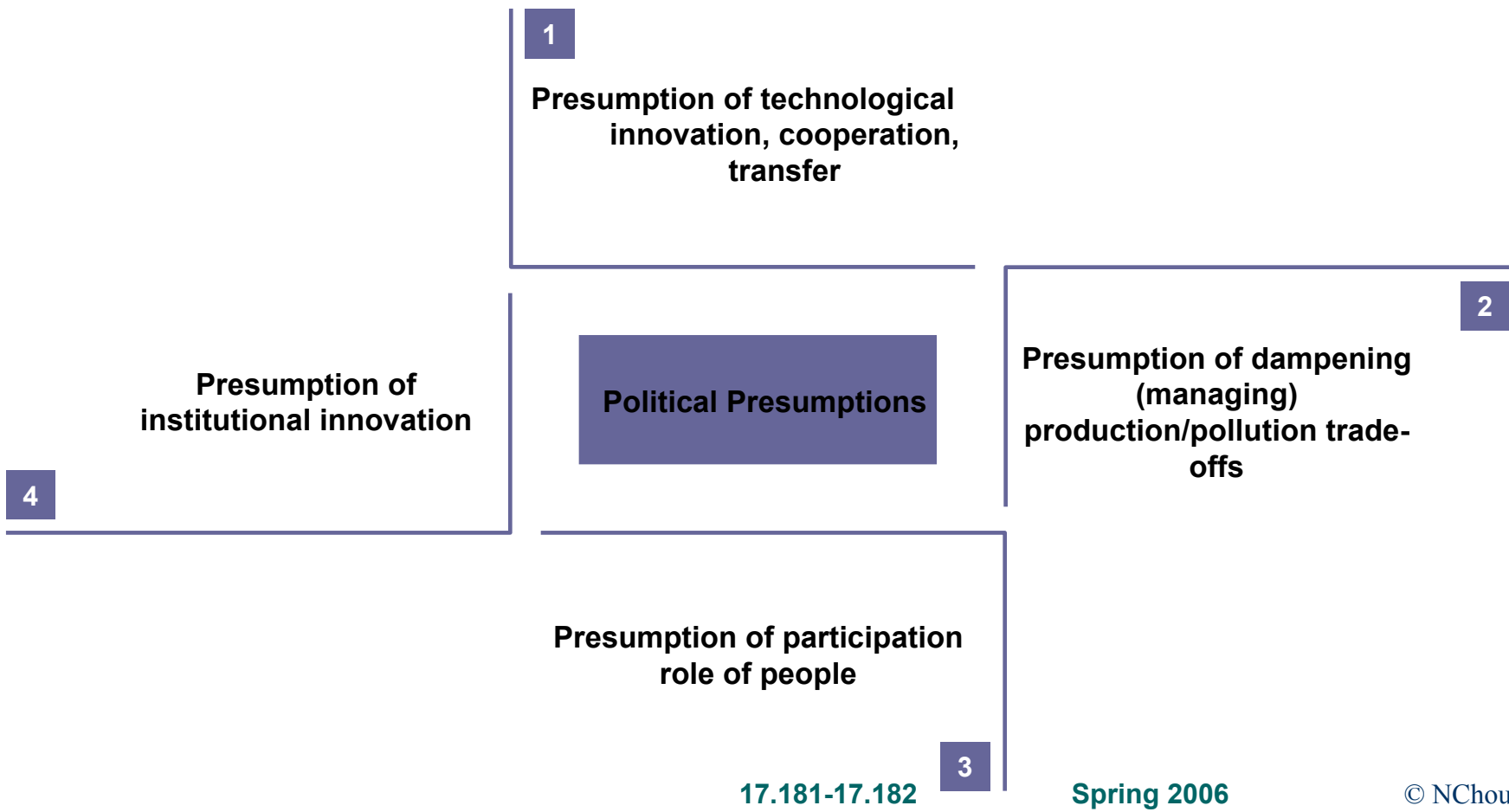


Theoretical Core – Continued

- irreversibility
- resilience
- non-declining "utility" variously defined (as non-increasing pollution, as non-declining resource stock;); non-declining, production possibility
- pushing toward dematerialization
- growth vs. development
- sustainability vs. survival

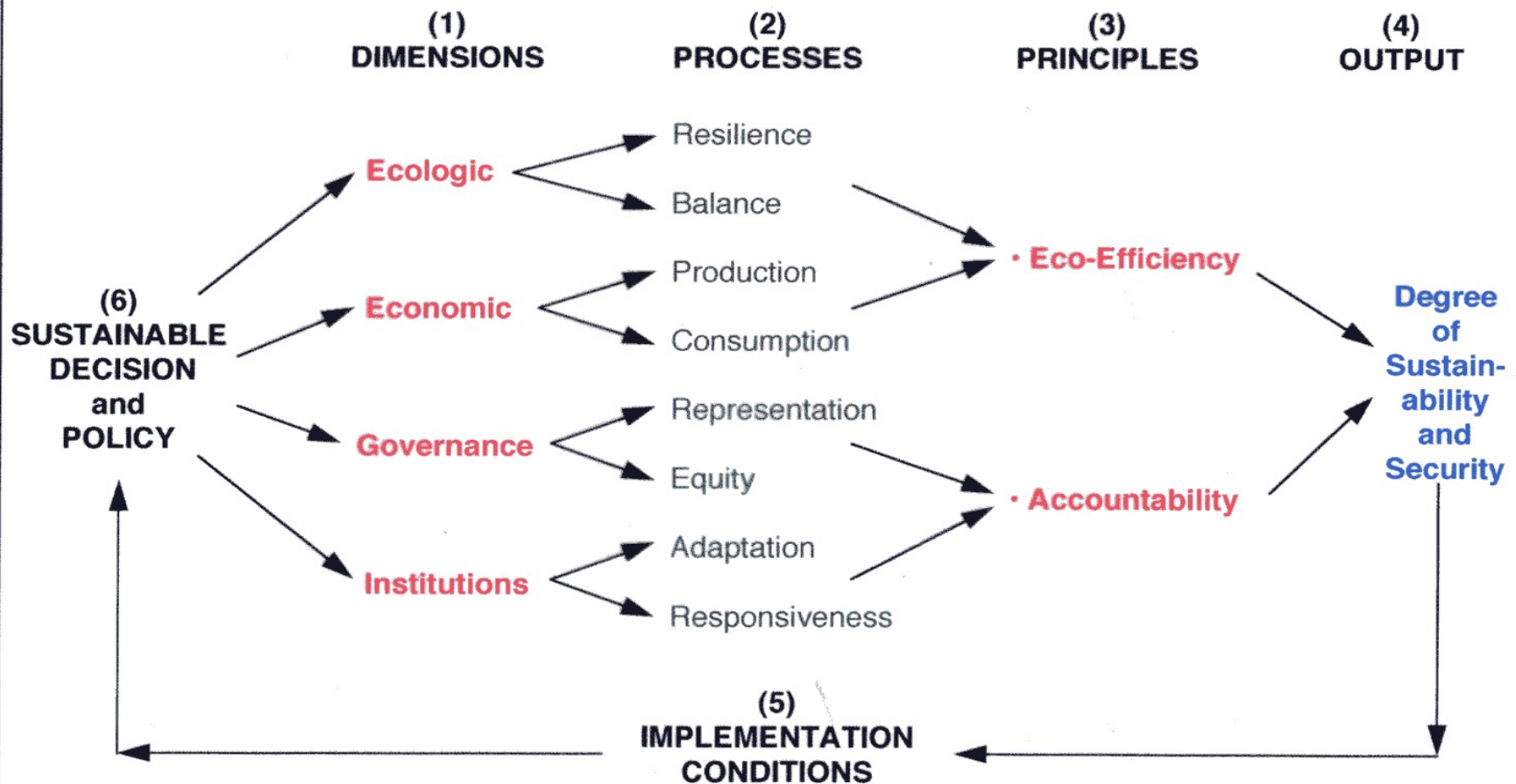


Basic Political Presumptions for Sustainability





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT as an INTEGRATED DYNAMIC PROCESS



N.Choucri, MIT, Technology and Development Program, Jan. 1996

3.2

Institutional Dimensions

Evolution of New
Principles



Examples of International Institutional Responses

UNDP Capacity 21 as follow-up on. Agenda 21

INC Climate Change Convention

GEF: empowering LDC's for project development

Commission on Sustainable Development

New Department in the United Nations

Reporting Mechanisms to the General Assembly

Donor Demand for Accountability

3.3

Structural Hurdles

Barrier Matters





Pressures for Effectiveness

- Compliance as next step. Good, but politically naïve as it imposes an industrial country idiom on behaviors for LDC's
- Suggests a tone of sanction/policing what is needed is reduce transaction & monitoring costs, and shift to a negotiation idiom
- UN Commission on Sustainable Development focus on reduction of emphasis on "compliance" toward capacity-building and strategies for facilitating adjustments

Private Sector Emphasis

- Rio & Rio + 10
- What Next?



Learning Outcomes

- Gain knowledge about the complexities of sustainable development & how to convey these
- Develop critical views of 'problems' as well as 'solutions'
- Enrich understanding of interconnections among dimensions & domains of sustainability
- Adapt 'knowledge-materials' for teaching purposes