



# Sustainable Development: Theory & Policy

## Week 1

### Introduction – Debates, Definitions & Dilemmas

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17.181 – 17.182 Spring 2006



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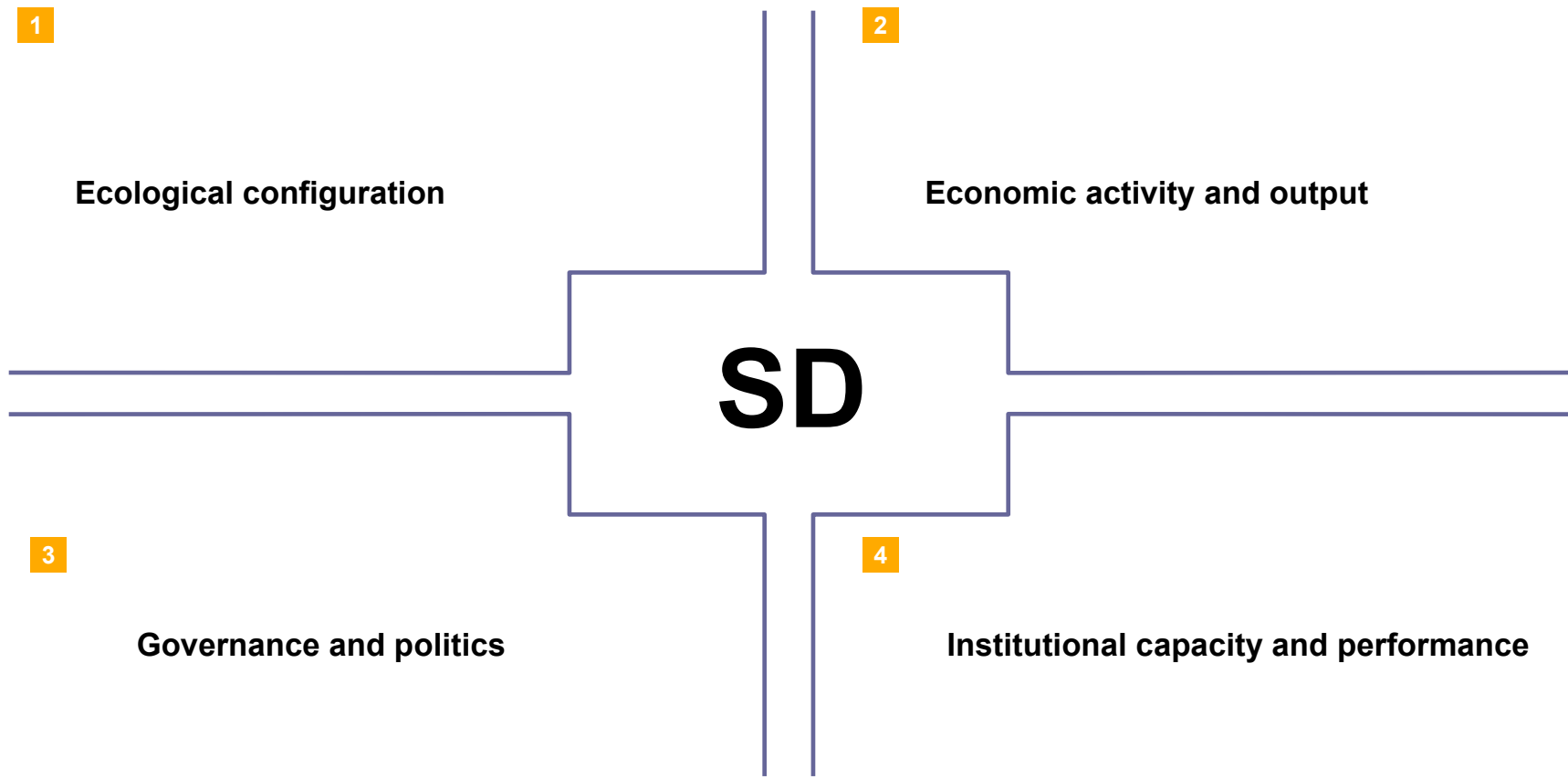


# Defining Sustainable Development – the core

**“The process of meeting the needs of current and future generation, without undermining the resilience of the life-supporting properties, or the integrity and cohesion of social systems.”**



# Extending this definition further we now differentiate among four dimensions of sustainability as follows:





# The Processes

Processes 'operate' [ over time – by definition they are not discrete outcomes

The key processes pertain to

- a) Ecological systems exhibiting balance and resilience
- b) Economic production and consumption that does not undermine ecological systems
- c) Governance modes reflecting participation and responsiveness
- d) Institutional performance that demonstrates adaptation and feedback



## The Proposition

The core proposition of this course is that:  
*if* all conditions hold  
*then* the system is (or can be) sustainable.

## 1.3 The Complexity



## Principles – what should guide our view of what happens and our decisions and choices?

- **Generic and uniform**
- **Or diverse and idiosyncratic**
- **One size fits all?**
- **What can or should be customized**
- **What are the rules of customization?**

## 1.4 Some Elements of 'Computation

# 1.5 The Reality in Question The Multiple Realities