SciencesPo

The Great Transition
Autumn Semester 2017-2018

MIDTERM ESSAY METHODOLOGY NOTE

TOPICS:
The topic of your essay should be clearly defined. It can stand either within ONE OF THE NINE HOT TOPICS (see below) or at the interface between several topics. It should explicitly raise issues related to the challenges of the great transition (responsibility, management of the commons). Possible topics range from theoretical questions (e.g. "What do we know about Corporate Social Responsibility") to empirical subjects ("Whales hunting in Japan"). It is a good idea to formulate your topic as a specific question that your note would be trying to answer.

Pick one of the following 9 hop topics
1. The purpose of the corporation
2. Tax responsibility or Philanthrocapitalism
3. Challenges of Transnational Governance
4. Sharing economy: open-source platforms, online marketplaces, collaborative consumption
5. Governing digital platforms and algorithms: regulation, taxation
6. Digital politics: technologies of resistance, mobilization and appropriation of the public space.
7. Negotiating climate change: institutional change, public mobilisation on env. issues
8. Stopping biodiversity destruction: incentives, financial penalties
9. Preserving ecosystems: consumer empowerment

FORMAT REQUIREMENT
- 2 to 3 Pages essay in English
- Should try not to exceed **1500 words** excluding references and annexes (charts, maps etc.)
- Standard font (Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri), size 12, single or 1.5 spacing
- Bibliography limited to key references on the topic, discussed in the paper
- Please use one referencing style

DEADLINE
Midterm essay should be uploaded to Moodle by October 22, 2017

APPROACH: WHAT YOUR BOSS NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE TOPIC
You should provide "your boss" with a clear overview of the question as you have formulated it – what are the main debates, what are the key positions confronting each other and who are the actors behind those debates. You should then end the note by taking a stand (what you suggest to your boss should be his/the company position on that question) and justifying

that stand with two to three key arguments. You can justify those arguments with concrete data and/or published research and material.