

In this essay I will point out the five points of our course constitution that I deem to be important. The points I consider important are: the expression of public commitment, the notion of public and free information, the community transparency, the uniqueness of our experiences and the expectations we have for each other.

The first point I consider important is the public commitment that is made to the participation of the course as expressed in the aspirations section of the course. It is known that publicly committing oneself to something is a strong way to keep motivated to follow up this commitment. This accountability will keep participants to continue to spread the ideas even after the course is finished. As education is something that can take some time to reform this continued effort is required to see the changes we envision being implemented.

The second point I consider important is the notion of public and free availability of information. In a digital age more information is restricted to those who have access of an internet connection. Even in well developed countries this is not always the case. Furthermore, even the people who are lucky enough to have internet access see more and more resources guarded by a so called pay-wall. The ability to access information is vital for anyone who pursues some form of education.

The third point I consider important is the transparency of the community. As users of this community and as part of this community we are all equal. This means we should be able to check the actions of each other if we desire to do so. From these actions we (both individual and as a group) can learn as we can draw upon the actions of others. However, we should use this ability only as source of learning and not as a result of mistrust in each other. Only if we trust each other we will be able to share and sharing is what allows us to learn. It is therefore a prerequisite for openness and, as a result of this, for learning.

The fourth point I consider important is the fact we draw from the unique experiences of each participant in this class. As we come from a wide variety of backgrounds, we all look from different angles to the same problem. Therefore, together we can solve problems that are impossible when faced individually. By stating this explicitly we acknowledge that this is the case and not one single vision is always correct (and multiple visions can exist besides each other).

The fifth point I consider important is the expectations we have for each other (as mentioned in the community expectations section). In stating these expectations we make clear to everyone participating in the course that, although everyone is allowed to take part in this experience, we also want something from you (of course depending on what is reasonable given your individual constraints). In doing so, we can hold each other accountable and only those that are willing to pick up the challenge of modernizing (higher) education will be included in our community.