

INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

Course Syllabus

Meeting Times and Location:

Live (sec. 2208): Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3rd period (9:35-10:25), 2333 Turlington Hall
Online (sec. 25C8): On demand via UF's e-Learning site

Instructor: Dr. Damian C. Adams

Office: 355 Newins-Ziegler Hall
Email: (1) Canvas Inbox (*preferred*); (2) dcadams@ufl.edu
Phone: 352-846-0872

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:40-noon, and by appointment

Course Website: UF *e-Learning in Canvas* at lss.at.ufl.edu. You can use Canvas to access lectures, take exams, send class-related emails, check your grades, see class announcements, etc. Please check the Canvas site regularly.

Required Text: Tietenberg, T. and L. Lewis. 2011. *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*, 9th Edition. Addison-Wesley/Pearson: Boston, MA.

Course Communications: Canvas's Inbox is the best way to get in touch about any class-related questions, concerns, etc. during the semester.

Course Description: The course is designed to introduce students to natural and environmental resource economics issues and theory. Emphasis is placed on understanding economic concepts such as resource scarcity, externalities, property rights, opportunity cost, sustainability, and valuation in their application to studies of natural resources and environmental amenities. Key social and demographic factors will be evaluated in the context of the demand for environmental assets and amenities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Apply economic principles to problems involving public and private natural resources and the environment
- Critically evaluate natural resource and environmental policies using basic economic tools (e.g., graphical welfare analysis)
- Understand the economic justification for regulatory action in allocating, managing, and protecting the environment and natural resources

Natural resources and the environment serve many economic, social, and environmental needs of people around the world. The patterns of use and management of natural resources can have a profound impact on the economy and the environment. It is critical for resource professionals and others to understand and be able to evaluate resource and environmental policies, programs and even individual choices through the lens of economics.

The specific goals of *Introduction to Natural Resource and Environmental Economics* are to:

- Help you develop an understanding of concepts and theories of natural resource and environmental economics, and
- Advance your ability to critically evaluate natural resource and environmental policies and problems from an economic perspective

Class Format: The class is taught using a lecture format with guided discussion. Please see the *Course Schedule* for information about topics covered.

Lectures are recorded live and, usually within 24 hours, posted in Canvas, where they will be accessible throughout the semester. Please be patient if technical difficulties arise, and let the instructor know as soon as possible if you cannot access lectures or other course materials.

Exams are used to assess learning. Please see *Evaluation of Student Learning* for more information about assessments and grades.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Active engagement with the course is critical to your success in AEB3450. Students in the live section are expected to attend all lectures, to read the assigned chapters, and to actively participate in class discussion. Participation helps synthesize class material, improves public speaking skills (very important regardless of your career path), and allows the class to draw from students' diverse experiences, backgrounds, and insights. Active participation includes sharing thoughts, asking relevant questions, summarizing information in a way that informs discussion, and otherwise engaging with the class in a professional manner. Also, please do not be late to class. Please also note that the lectures are recorded, so if you are late, please take your seat as quietly as possible. During discussions, please be respectful and polite to your classmates, and please silence your phone.

Students in the online section are expected to stay current with all readings and lectures; to submit take exams on the scheduled dates; and to communicate with the instructor about any questions or concerns about the course.

Make-up exams: Make-up exams are given at the discretion of the instructor, but they are generally not allowed, particularly without a 14-day advance notice or a valid doctor's note.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams and other work are consistent with university policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Cell phone and Laptop Policy: Before class starts, please turn your cell phone to silent (or off if it will distract you during class). Laptop use is allowed at the instructor's discretion. If you prefer to take notes on your laptop, that is fine; but checking social media or browsing the web is generally disruptive to your ability to learn and to engage with the class. If you are using your laptop in that way, you may be asked to close your laptop or leave the class.

UF Policies:

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering

disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to taking the exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Contact: 0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “*On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*”

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, discussions and chats. <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Software Use: All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Getting Help with E-learning:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up. Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Campus Helping Resources:

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/*
 - Counseling Services
 - Groups and Workshops
 - Outreach and Consultation
 - Self-Help Library
 - Training Programs
 - Community Provider Database
- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/*

Evaluation of Student Learning (Grades):

100% Exams (4) NOTE: Your highest score is worth 40%, and your lowest three count 20% each
Exam 1 – Monday, 9/21
Exam 2 – Wednesday, 10/14
Exam 3 – Wednesday, 11/11
Exam 4 (Final exam) – Thursday, 12/17

Grading Scale

	85-89.9%: B+	75-79.9%: C+	65-69.9%: D+	
90-100%: A	80-84.9%: B	70-74.9%: C	60-64.9%: D	0-59.9%: E

Course Schedule: (Note: Subject to change to enhance learning opportunities. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.)

Dates	Topics	Readings
Mon. 8/24	Course Introduction	n/a
Wed. 8/26	1 - Visions of the Future	Ch. 1 (pp.1-13)
Fri. 8/28	2 - The Economic Approach: Property Rights, Externalities, and Environmental Problems	Ch. 2 (pp.16-43)
Mon. 8/31	"	"
Wed. 9/2	"	"
Fri. 9/4	3 - Evaluating Trade-offs: Benefit-Cost Analysis and other Decision-Making Metrics	Ch. 3 (pp.46-70)
Mon. 9/7	<i>No class (Labor Day)</i>	n/a
Wed. 9/9	3 - Evaluating Trade-offs, cont'd	Ch. 3, cont'd
Fri. 9/11	"	"
Mon. 9/14	"	"
Wed. 9/16	"	"
Fri. 9/18	"	"
Mon. 9/21	<i>Exam 1</i>	
Wed. 9/23	4 - Valuing the Environment: Methods	Ch. 4 (pp.74-99)
Fri. 9/25	"	"
Mon. 9/28	"	"
Wed. 9/30	"	"
Fri. 10/2	"	"
Mon. 10/5	5 - Dynamic Efficiency and Sustainable Development	Ch. 5 (pp.102-115)
Wed. 10/7	"	"
Fri. 10/9	"	"
Mon. 10/12	"	"
Wed. 10/14	<i>Exam 2</i>	
Fri. 10/16	6 - Recyclable Resources: Minerals, Paper, Bottles, and E-Waste	Ch. 8 (pp.180-201)
Mon. 10/19	"	"
Wed. 10/21	"	"
Fri. 10/23	"	"
Mon. 10/26	7 - Replenishable but Depletable Resources: Water	Ch. 9 (pp.204-234)
Wed. 10/28	"	"
Fri. 10/30	"	"
Mon. 11/2	"	"
Wed. 11/4	"	"
Fri. 11/6	<i>No class (Homecoming)</i>	
Mon. 11/9	7 - Water, cont'd	Ch. 9, cont'd
Wed. 11/11	<i>Exam 3</i>	

Fri. 11/13	8 - A Locationally Fixed, Multipurpose Resource: Land	Ch. 10 (pp.237-259)
Mon. 11/16	"	"
Wed. 11/18	"	"
Fri. 11/20	9 - Reproducible Private Property Resources: Agriculture & Food Security	Ch. 11 (pp.272-290)
Mon. 11/23	"	"
Wed. 11/25	<i>No class (Thanksgiving)</i>	
Fri. 11/27	<i>No class (Thanksgiving)</i>	
Mon. 11/30	9 - Agriculture, cont'd	Ch. 11, cont'd
Wed. 12/2	"	"
Fri. 12/4	10 - Storable, Renewable Resources: Forests	Ch. 12 (pp.293-316)
Mon. 12/7	"	"
Wed. 12/9	"	"
Thu. 12/17	<i>Exam 4 (Final exam)</i>	