

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451  
**Economics of Natural Resource Use**

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Fall 2020

Period 7, Tuesday & Thursday 1:55 pm – 2:45 pm, and Period 8, Thursday 3:00-3:50

Classroom zoom code:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96099394605?pwd=ZXVQWG80RmhrT3E3aTJuZUEvRVhBUT09>

Meeting ID: 960 9939 4605

Passcode: 835487

**Instructor and Contact Information**

Dr. Misti Sharp	Email: <a href="mailto:mistisharp@ufl.edu">mistisharp@ufl.edu</a>
Office hours:	Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 – 4:30 and by appointment I am teaching remotely this fall so all office hours will be in zoom: <a href="https://ufl.zoom.us/j/902541919">https://ufl.zoom.us/j/902541919</a>

**Course Description (from Catalog):** Introduces how economists value the environment and regulations designed to protect our natural resources from overuse and degradation. (S)

**Pre-Requisites and Credit Guidelines:** There are no prerequisites for this course. It meets the requirements for Social and Behavioral (S) under the general education guidelines. However, a grade of C or better is required to earn general education credit and the course cannot be taken S-U (<http://gened.aa.ufl.edu/>)

**Communication:**

Email is the best way to reach me. Any issues that require action MUST be handled by email so that there is a written record of need. After class conversations are not likely to result in action. I typically respond to emails within 24 hours if a response is required.

Class cancellations, changes in office hours, meeting locations and changes in the syllabus will be announced on e-learning. Be sure that you receive those notifications in a timely manner (controlled in your e-learning settings). Appointments are not necessary during office hours. Groups of students are welcome.

**Undergraduate Advisor:** Ms. Danielle Shu; 1170B McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7640;  
E-mail: [dshu@ufl.edu](mailto:dshu@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: daily-- 9:00 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

**FRE Technology Assistance:** Dave Depatie; 1197 McCarty Hall A; (352) 394-7641;  
E-mail: [ddepattie@ufl.edu](mailto:ddepattie@ufl.edu)

**Teaching Assistants:** TBD

**Course Description:**

The study of environmental economics provides a means for understanding how the incentives that underlie human decision-making impact the environment and the design of environmental policy. In this course, we will apply fundamental economic theory to analyze a broad range of contemporary environmental issues. We will take a closer look at issues related to pollution and the management of natural resources including water, energy, food and fisheries as they each present challenges in a policy setting.

**Course Objectives:**

- 1) Identify the range of economic costs and benefits of a particular environmental policy and the tools that can be used to estimate these costs and benefits.
- 2) Assess how economic incentives influence individual and group behavior and how this knowledge can be used to explain and address environmental challenges.
- 3) Improve critical thinking skills to assess the tradeoffs inherent to a broad range of contemporary environmental and natural resource allocation issues.
- 4) Apply economic concepts to an environmental issue with the goal of developing skills to communicate in an effective manner through creative work.

**Course Topics:** This course is broken into two main sections: environmental economics and natural resource economics. While the work that environmental economists and natural resource economists do overlap in some ways, the main distinction is that environmental economics is focused on the valuation of environmental goods and bads within an existing economic system whereas natural resource economics is focused on market failure related to resources that arise from characteristics of the resource itself. The course is divided based on this distinction with the first part focusing on economic frameworks, valuation techniques and pollution control and the second part focusing on the allocation of natural resources based on issues of property rights and biophysical processes associated with each resource.

**Required Course Materials:**

- **E-learning:** can be accessed via <http://elearning.ufl.edu> using your Gatorlink username and password. If you are having difficulties accessing E-learning, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352)-392-HELP or email [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).
- **Required text:** Tietenberg and Lewis: Environmental Economics and Policy, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Other editions may be adequate. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the content is similar to the required text.

**Class Structure:** This class is scheduled for 1 period on Tuesday and 2 periods on Thursday. In order to reduce "zoom fatigue" among students taking several online classes simultaneously, we will only meet as a class synchronously on Thursday. It is expected that you will watch all posted video lectures and review supplemental material prior to the synchronous session on Thursday. Synchronous classes will involve a mixture of lecturing, discussion, and various active learning activities all designed to help increase your understanding of the course topics. On Tuesdays, you may use the same zoom code (on the first page of the syllabus) if you would like to meet with your instructor regarding this course.

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled

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students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

This class contains 8 modules:

Module 0: Orientation and Economics Review (*a pre-requisite for all other modules*)

Module 1: Economic Valuation and Decision Making under Market Failure

Module 2: Externalities and Pollution Problems

Module 3: Global Sustainability and Agriculture

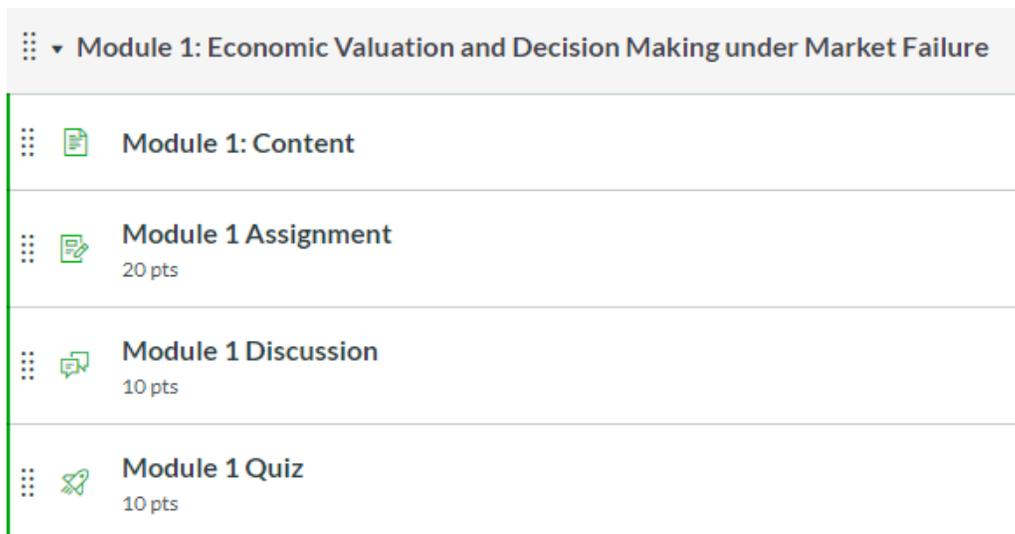
Module 4: Natural Resource Economics

Module 5: Energy and the Utility

Module 6: Water and Common Pool Resources

Module 7: Economics of Natural Resource Use—Final Case Study (*required and can't be dropped*)

As shown in the image below from eLearning, each module consists of content (concept maps, recorded lectures and assigned readings), an assignment (economic reasoning), a discussion post (about hot topics) and a quiz (open book, open note, multiple choice, timed).



Module 0: Orientation/Background is required as a pre-requisite to access module 1 but it is not worth a grade. You may drop your lowest scoring assignment, discussion and quiz. Module 7 cannot be dropped and is a

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cumulative module requiring you to apply economic theory learned in prior modules to a final case study (worth 40 points).

### Your grade is composed of the following:

*Module discussions (best 5 of 6):* Each topic in this class is very much relevant to your day to day lives! The discussion posts are based on contemporary issues and typically require reading and responding to a prompt regarding a current issue in the field of environmental and/or natural resource economics. Grades for these discussion posts will be based on completeness, the quality of your economic reasoning and your responses to others posts. Respectfulness is required and expected for these discussion posts.

*Module assignments (best 5 of 6):* These assignments will require economic reasoning (which is often quantitative and/or graphical) and should be attempted as early as possible to ensure the best possible work and corresponding grade. It is in your best interest to attempt all assignments.

*Module quizzes (best 5 of 6):* Quizzes will include multiple choice questions related to assignments, readings and lectures. Each quiz will be weighted equally and will not be *explicitly* cumulative although all modules are based in the same economic framework. You will only have two attempts at the quiz (be careful as there will be a test bank and you could get a harder version on your second attempt). Grades for the quiz will be released after the due date. Make-up quizzes will only be available to those with excuses validated by the Dean of Students Office ([https://dso.ufl.edu/areas\\_services/care-area/](https://dso.ufl.edu/areas_services/care-area/)).

*Final Case Study:* the last module will require students to analyze an environmental/natural resource issue through an economic lens developed over the course of the semester. This case study is an individual project and will require significant effort and study. It may not be dropped, it will be analyzed using plagiarism software (Turnitin), and accounts for 16% of your course grade.

*Synchronous Participation:* in order to create an interactive and educational synchronous class setting, I would like to reward participation in the weekly synchronous activities (on Thursdays). Each synchronous class will involve at least one activity that I will record participation for in some format (could be as easy as a check in, could be submitting something in another platform, etc). In order to get full credit for this synchronous participation, you must participate in at least 5 of the ~13 synchronous classes.

### Course Grade Composition:

Category	Total Points	% of Total Grade
Discussions (best 5 of 6)	50 points (10 points each)	20%
Assignments (best 5 of 6)	100 points (20 points each)	40%
Quizzes (best 5 of 6)	50 points (10 points each)	20%
Final Case Study	40 points	16%
Synchronous participation	10 points	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>250 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*\*You will not be able to access any of the above categories until you complete the requirements within Module 0 on e-learning!\*\***

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**Attendance and Make-up Work:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Grades and Grade Points:** Grades will be assigned as follows

Grade	Percentage	Total Points	Grade Points
A	92% or more	≥ 230	4.00
A-	90.0 – 91.9%	225 – 229	3.67
B+	86.0 – 89.9%	215 – 224	3.33
B	82.0 – 85.9%	205 – 214	3.00
B-	80.0 – 81.9%	200 – 204	2.67
C+	76.0 – 79.9%	190 – 199	2.33
C	72.0 – 75.9%	180 – 189	2.00
C-	70.0 – 71.9%	175 – 179	1.67
D+	66.0 – 69.9%	165 – 174	1.33
D	62.0 – 65.9%	155 – 164	1.00
D-	60.0 – 62.9%	150 – 154	0.67
E	≤ 59.9%	≤ 149	0.00

*Your final letter grade will be posted on e-learning after the final exam. The professor has the right to change this point structure at any point so long as it improves the student's final score.*

\*\*Please note that grades are not 'rounded' or 'adjusted' at the end of the term. Haggling over grades at the end of the semester is NOT entertained. Of course, if there is an error in recording a grade, I will gladly give you the correct points. If you believe that your assignment is incorrectly graded or that your grade is incorrectly posted, please contact me via e-mail as soon as possible. You have 7 days after a grade has been posted to voice your concern. After 7 days have passed, your posted grade will be assumed to be correct and accurate.

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Academic Honesty:** 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:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

**Examples of cheating:** copying the homework of a peer, copying and pasting from a source without quotations and source attribution, paying someone else to do your homework/project/exam, dividing work amongst you and your peers and then all submitting the same document, giving or receiving material from peers...

**Academic Performance:**

Your grade on e-learning throughout the semester may not reflect your true performance in the course. You will have regular assignments that may require quick turnaround in this class and it is crucial that you do not “check-out” at any point in the semester. If you fall behind, you **MUST** communicate with me when you realize this is happening. Do **NOT** wait until the end of the semester as there is nothing I can do to help at that point. It is my goal to teach students and not to “give grades” as I believe grades are earned. As such, consider the following guidelines when you have questions about your grade or class performance:

- If you have any questions about your score at any point, you may come to the professor during office hours to clarify the number of points you have and what points will be required to achieve your desired grade.
- Do **NOT** ask for clarification of your grade in class or after class. This type of discussion is reserved for office hours or scheduled meetings. Please note that I cannot communicate grade information over email. All grades are posted in e-learning in a timely fashion; please let the instructor know if this is not the case.
- Do **NOT** email me or come to office hours expecting to change your score on a given assignment unless an egregious error has been made in entering your grade into canvas (i.e. you failed to get credit for a completed assignment or an exam grade was entered incorrectly).
- Do **NOT** ask for additional points throughout the semester. It may be the case that bonus opportunities to gain additional points will be available; however, this is determined solely by the professor based on an assessment of the relevance of additional activities to course materials and learning objectives.

**Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

**Resources for disabled students:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Requests to the DRC for accommodated exams must be made at least 5 days prior to the exam. Failure to meet this deadline may result in a lack of testing accommodations.

**Student counseling and support:** If something happens in your personal life that has an impact on your academic life, you must go through the Dean of Students Office (contact below) for additional

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accommodations. If you are experiencing other forms of distress that do not impact your performance in my class, there are several resources available on campus for students (<http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>)

Service	Location	Phone
GatorWell Health Promotions Services (works on time management, etc.) ( <a href="http://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu">gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu</a> )	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Reitz Union	273-4450
Dean of students ( <a href="http://www.dso.ufl.edu">http://www.dso.ufl.edu</a> )	P202 Peabody Hall	392-1261
Counseling and wellness center ( <a href="http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/">http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/</a> )	2190 Radio Road	392-1575
Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)	Infirmery Building	392-1161
Student health care center ( <a href="http://shcc.ufl.edu">http://shcc.ufl.edu</a> )	Infirmery Building	392-1161
University Police Department ( <a href="http://police.ufl.edu">police.ufl.edu</a> )		392-1111
Career Resource Center ( <a href="http://www.crc.ufl.edu">http://www.crc.ufl.edu</a> )	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Reitz Union	392-1601
UF Help Desk—Technical Support ( <a href="mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu">helpdesk@ufl.edu</a> )	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, the HUB	392-4357
Library Support ( <a href="http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask">http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask</a> )	online	
Teaching Center ( <a href="http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/">http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/</a> )	Broward Hall	392-6420
Writing Studio ( <a href="http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/">http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/</a> )	online	846-1138

**Netiquette Policy:** As this is an online class, there are several considering of how to be respectful of your teacher and peers. See the following netiquette guide for more information: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.docx>

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

Class	Day	Date	Topic	Module	Assignments	Format
1	T	1-Sep	Syllabus and Economics Review	0		Asynchronous
2	Th	3-Sep	Syllabus and Economics Review	0	Module 0 due	Synchronous
3	T	8-Sep	Valuing the Environment	1		Asynchronous
4	Th	10-Sep	Valuing the Environment	1		Synchronous
5	T	15-Sep	Economic Valuation	1		Asynchronous
6	Th	17-Sep	Decision making under market failure	1	Module 1 due	Synchronous
7	T	22-Sep	Externalities	2		Asynchronous
8	Th	24-Sep	Correcting externalities	2		Synchronous
9	T	29-Sep	Pollution	2		Asynchronous
10	Th	1-Oct	Pollution Policies	2	Module 2 due	Synchronous
11	T	6-Oct	Population	3		Asynchronous
12	Th	8-Oct	Climate Change	3		Synchronous
13	T	13-Oct	Agriculture	3		Asynchronous
14	Th	15-Oct	Development, Poverty and the Environment	3	Module 3 due	Synchronous
15	T	20-Oct	Introduction to Natural Resources	4		Asynchronous
16	Th	22-Oct	Elasticity and Resource Extraction	4		Synchronous
17	T	27-Oct	Policies for Non-Renewable Resources	4		Asynchronous
18	Th	29-Oct	Conservation of Resources	4	Module 4 due	Synchronous
19	T	3-Nov	Peak Oil and Finite Energy Resources	5		Asynchronous
20	Th	5-Nov	Renewable Energy Resources	5		Synchronous
21	T	10-Nov	Theory of the Utility	5		Asynchronous
22	Th	12-Nov	Efficiency versus Conservation	5	Module 5 due	Synchronous
23	T	17-Nov	Water Resources	6		Asynchronous
24	Th	19-Nov	Water Policies	6		Synchronous
25	T	24-Nov	Common Pool Resources	6		Asynchronous
26	T	1-Dec	Fishery Policies	6	Module 6 due	Synchronous
27	Th	3-Dec	Introduction to the Final Case Study	7		Synchronous
28	T	8-Dec	Final Case Study Soft Deadline	7		Asynchronous
29	F	17-Dec	Final Case Study Hard Deadline	7		Asynchronous

*Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the terms and dates stated in this course syllabus at any time. Any changes will be communicated in class, via Gatorlink e-mail listserv, and posted on e-learning as an announcement. It is solely the student's responsibility to stay informed of any changes.*

*\*\*\*By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to the terms outlined in this syllabus!!\*\*\**

**I look forward to a fun and productive semester with you all!**