University of Florida
Food and Resource Economics Department

AEB6933 Environmental Economics

Spring Term 2019

3 Credit Hours

MWF: 11:35-12:45 pm
Classroom: McCarty B 3124

Instructor and Contact Information
Instructor: Dr. Xiang Bi
Office: 1105 McCarty Hall B
Phone: (352) 294-7671
Office Hours: MWF, 3:00-4:00pm
E-mail: xiangbi@ufl.edu

Graduate Student Services Coordinator
Ms. Jess Herman; 1170 McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7622, Email: jherman@ufl.edu

General Course Information

Learning Objectives
The students will be provided with the opportunity to learn theory and application of economics to address environmental problems in this graduate level course.

Students are expected to develop deep understanding of the core of environmental economics- concepts associated with externalities, cost benefit analysis, and methods developed to estimate the values of environmental changes; and develop an appreciation for the breadth of the field. Specifically, the students should be able to display a command of existing knowledge through summarizing and interpreting the existing literature; to apply existing knowledge through identifying and formulating research questions on their own; and to be able to interpret data and present theoretical derivation and/or empirical identification in a convincing manner.

Prerequisite
This course is intended for graduate students in agricultural economics, economics or related fields. A background in advanced microeconomic theory and Econometrics (AEB6106, AEB6553/AEB 7571, or equivalent) is required for this course. Students with questions about their preparation should consult with the instructor.

Course Structure
The course follows a seminar format and the **instructor’s lecturing will be kept to a minimum.** The daily activities include: student’s presentations, discussions, questions and answers, problem sets and lectures (if necessary). I expect active participation from all students in discussion of the textbook material and journal articles on the syllabus. A significant part of your grade will be based on contribution to discussion.

**Textbook**

**Required text:** A Primer on Nonmarket Valuation. [aka “Primer”] *Second edition.* Eds. Patricia A. Champ, K.J. Boyle, and Thomas C. Brown. 2017


**E-learning Canvas**

Handouts, readings, assignments, and announcements will be kept on the course canvas website. To access E-Learning, you will need your Gatorlink username and password. E-Learning Canvas can be accessed via [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/). If you are having difficulties accessing Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352) 392-HELP or via e-mail helpdesk@ufl.edu. You will need your UFID when contacting them. Please note that the E-learning Canvas site might not be operational until the end of the first week of the semester.

**Grading Summary**

The final grade will be constructed according to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper summary</td>
<td>5%*7=35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature review on selected topic</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referee reports</td>
<td>5%*2 =10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>5% presentation+5% written proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>5% presentation+10% paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class participation and attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Paper Summary**

Each student is expected to write a one-page summary on one journal paper for each one of the 8 topics in the reading list and submit the summaries on Canvas (under discussions).

- The summary should include a discussion of the main points of the article (What is the research question? What is the research method? What are the main findings?)
- The summary should highlight the specific contribution of the paper (methods or policy relevance)
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- And discuss weaknesses or limitations that can be addressed by future studies.

**Literature Review on Selected Topics**
This literature review will be based on the paper summaries submitted by the whole class on Canvas. Each student is expected to give one ~15 minute oral presentations on **one set of the topic** listed in the reading list. These presentations will be peer-evaluated and I will post the grading rubric on the e-learning website.

The presentation should:

- Use PowerPoint/ Prezi/Latex Beamer
- A good literature review should discuss
  - What have been learned from previous studies?
  - What are some of the main limitations or flaws in the previous studies?
  - What is the recent development in the literature on the related topics?
  - What are some of the challenges and research questions that can be addressed by future studies?

**Referee reports**
Each student must hand in two referee reports on two working papers. Those papers will be provided during the class and one paper will be from Part I and one paper will be from Part II. In the referee report, you will be asked to summarize your assessment on the paper, provide recommendation on revision, rejection or acceptance and provide specific comments and recommendations on further revisions. They are expected to be 1-2 pages.

**Participation and Attendance**
Each member of the class is expected to contribute to in-class discussion. Students MUST be active and courteous participants on discussion days. I will keep track of questions and comments offered by each student on those days.

I will also provide a few study questions for each topic and we will discuss these study questions at the end of the segment as review questions.

Additionally, you will be given ample opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback to the instructor and fellow students throughout the semester. Full participation credit requires meaningful and appropriate participation on **80%** of class meetings.

**Research Proposal and Final Paper**
Each student will submit an individual research proposal following the presentation of the research proposal right after spring break. Each student will write a 15-20 page double-spaced *individual* research paper due at the end of the semester (April 30, 2019). The final paper will be graded based on how successful you are in applying material from the course to your chosen topic given your background. The final paper presentation (~20 minutes) will be conducted at the end of the course.

Presentations on research proposal and final paper will be peer-evaluated the grading rubric will be posted on the e-learning website. Each presentation accounts for 5% of your grade.

The presentation on your proposed research topic should include:
- What is the motivation of your research and why do we care? (The so-what question)
- What is your expected contribution after you have summarized the existing literature?
- Explain your data source

The presentation on your final paper should include the additional items:
- What is your (proposed) methodology and justification?
- What are the (expected) results?

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% or above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
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Note: Written assignments should be submitted through course website or email. You will not receive full credit with late submission. Particularly, you will face a 40% deduction if your submission is late by one day; and 60% deduction if late by two days. Submissions that are late for more than two days will receive zero credits.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1 (1/7):**

**Introduction**

Other references


**Weeks 2-3 (1/14-1/23):**

**Topic 1- Choice of Instruments**


**Week 4 (1/28):**

**Topic 2- Non-point Source Pollution, Voluntary and Information**


**Weeks 5-7 (2/4-2/18):**
Topic 3- Empirical Analysis on the Effects of Regulation


Integrated Assessment


Week 7 (2/20):
Respond to Reviewer’s Comments


Week 8 (2/25):

Topic 4- Empirical Analysis on Compliance


Week 9(3/4):

Spring Break, Referee Report #1 Due

Week 10 (3/11):

Research Paper Proposal Presentation, Research Proposal Due

Week 11 (3/18):

Cost and Benefit Analysis and Valuation Theory

Lecture


Other references

**Topic 5- Travel Cost Method**


**Week 12 (3/5):**


34. Comment on “A revealed preference approach to valuing non-market recreational fishing losses from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill” and its “Corrigendum” by Alvarez et al.

35. Reply to “Comment on: A revealed preference approach to valuing non-market recreational fishing losses from the deepwater horizon oil spill and its corrigendum”


**Week 13 (4/1):**

**Topic 6- Hedonic and Sorting Models**


**Week 14 (4/8):**

**Topic 7-Contingent Valuation and Choice Experiment**

**Review**


Week 15 (4/15):

Review
Second Referee Report Due

Presentation of Research Paper Presentation

Week 16 (4/22):

Presentation of Research Paper

Week 17 (4/29):

Final Paper Due

University Policies

Grades and Grade Points
For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Absences and Make-Up Work
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.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: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php.

**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.

**Online Course Evaluation Process**
Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

**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

*U Matter, We Care, 352-294-CARE. umatter@ufl.edu http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/*

*Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/*

**Services for 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.

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

*Dr. Bi reserves the right to change the terms and dates stated in this syllabus at any time. Should there be any changes, notifications will be given in class and posted on eLearning Canvas in advance. 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 wish everyone a rewarding and productive semester!*