

Economics of Natural Resource Use

Fall 2016

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

Classroom: Fine Arts Building 105

Instructor and Contact Information

Lecturer: Misti Sharp

Office: 1193 McCarty Hall A

Office Hours: M, Tu, Wed, & Th 8:30 am –
10:30 am and Fridays by appointment

Email: mistisharp@ufl.edu (preferred)

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Teaching Assistant: Bijeta Bijen Saha

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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 the management of natural resources including water, energy, agriculture and fisheries as they each present challenges in a policy setting. The final component of the course will address global issues in environmental economics.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Understand how economic incentives influence individual and group behavior and how this knowledge can be used to explain and address environmental challenges.
- 2) Develop an ability to 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.
- 3) Improve critical thinking skills to assess the tradeoffs inherent to a broad range of contemporary environmental issues.
- 4) Apply economic concepts to an environmental issue with the goal of developing skills to communicate in an effective manner through writing and oral presentations.

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 Gen Ed credit and the course cannot be taken S-U (<http://gened.ua.ufl.edu/>)

Required Course Materials:

- **E-learning:** There is an E-Learning Canvas webpage for this course. 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 via email helpdes@ufl.edu.
- **Required text:** Tietenberg and Lewis: Environmental Economics and Policy, 6th Edition. Journal entries and class discussions will center heavily around readings from this book.
- **i-Clicker2:** these are available in the bookstore. Get the REEF 6 Month Polling Access Card as well. ISBN 9781498601634

Class Structure: This class meets for 50 minutes on Tuesdays and for two 50 minute sessions on Thursdays. Tuesdays and the first 50 minute class on Thursday will be dedicated to lecture: my lectures may involve various modes of information dissemination but I plan to primarily write notes on the whiteboard and use the document camera. Powerpoints may be used on occasion. Some of this material may be posted on Canvas, however coming to class is the only way to ensure that you have complete information about course topics. The second portion of class on Thursdays will be dedicated to student presentations, workshops, and case studies.

Course Assignments:

Journal Entries (best 10 of 13): Each week with the exception of exam weeks, there will be a journal entry that will be related to the weekly readings. These journal entries are due by Tuesday at 1:30 pm each week they are due. Late submissions will receive a grade of 0. Your final score will be composed of your best 10 of 13 journal entries. A rubric will be given for journals.

Problem sets (best 4 out of 5): You will be given one week to complete each problem set. **You must submit your assignment on e-learning.** If you work **with other students or** in a group, please **write the names of the other students on the top of your assignment.** I expect each individual to fully understand all solutions provided. Problem sets are due **prior to class on the day they are due and late assignments will not be accepted.** The lowest grade of the five problem sets will be dropped.

Student project: Each student or pair of students must choose a topic in the class to explore deeper. Students will choose to make a presentation to the class, generate a creative project (poster, video, artwork), or write a paper on the topic chosen. More details are forthcoming.

Midterm exams (best 2 out of 3): Each exam will include multiple choice, short answer and essay questions related to assignments, readings and lectures. There will be no makeup exams offered. The lowest midterm exam will be dropped.

Final exam: A cumulative final will be given on Friday, December 16th at 12:30.

Grades will be posted on e-Learning as soon as they are available

Course Assignments	Total Points	% of Total Grade
Journal Entries (best 10 out of 13)	50 points (5 points each)	10%
Problem sets (best 4 out of 5)	100 points (25 points each)	20%
Student project	100 points	20%
Midterm exams (best 2 of 3)	150 (75 points each)	30%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	100 points	20%
Total	500 points	100%

Student Evaluation: Grades will be assigned as follows (note no minuses will be awarded)

Grade	Percentage	Total Points	Grade Points
A	90.0% or more	≥ 450	4.00
B+	86.0 – 89.9%	430 – 449	3.33
B	80.0 – 85.9%	400 – 429	3.00
C+	76.0 – 79.9%	380 – 399	2.33
D+	70.0 – 75.9%	350 – 379	2.00
D	66.0 – 69.9%	330 – 349	1.33
D	60.0 – 65.9%	300 – 329	1.00
E	≤ 59.9%	≤ 299	0.00

Academic Integrity: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Honor Code of the University of Florida: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.* I expect all work that you do in the course to be your own. For group projects, it must be clear the contribution of each student to the project. Cases of plagiarism in written work will be taken seriously, so please familiarize yourself with different forms of plagiarism (<http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101>) and avoid doing these things! Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will result in judicial action.

Expectations and feedback:

I expect students to attend every class having done the assigned readings so that you are prepared to contribute. It is also my expectation that you will be open-minded and considerate of the thoughts and ideas of all of your fellow classmates. Clickers will be used daily and in-class participation will count as bonus points at the end of the semester. I will do my best to conduct organized and insightful class sessions and to treat your intellectual work with fairness and impartiality.

It is your choice to succeed or not succeed in my class and “success” means different things to different students. From my perspective, successful students are those who 1) do the readings, 2)

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do the assignments including journals and problem sets, 3) attend class and participate, and 4) study for exams. If you begin to struggle, it is your responsibility to come see me to determine which of these four items you are struggling with and what steps should be taken on your part to ensure your success in the class.

Resources for disabled students: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible to set up the appropriate arrangements. Please do not wait until the day before an exam to request accommodations. Further information can be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>.

Course Schedule

Topic	Week	Dates	Assignment/Test dates	Lecture Material
Section 1: Introduction to Environmental Economics				
Intro to Env. Econ	1	Aug 23 & 25	Journal Due 8/26 at 1:30	T&L: Ch. 1
Econ Framework	2	Aug 30 & Sept 1	HW #1 assigned	T&L: Ch. 2
Methods	3	Sept 6 & 8	HW #1 due 9/8 in class	T&L: Ch. 4
Valuation Methods	4	Sept 13 & 15	HW #2 assigned	T&L: Ch. 3
	5	Sept 20 & 22	HW#2 due 9/20, Test 9/22	catch-up
Section 2: Natural Resource Management				
Intro to Res. Mgmt.	6	Sept 27 & 29	Proposal due for project 9/29; HW#3 assigned	T&L: Ch. 6
Natural Res. Mgmt.	7	Oct 4 & 6	HW #3 due 10/6 in class	T&L: Ch. 7
Water	8	Oct 11 & 13	HW #4 assigned	T&L: Ch. 9
Energy	9	Oct 18 & 20	HW#4 due 10/27 in class	T&L: Ch. 8
	10	Oct 25 & 27	Review 10/25, Test 10/27	catch-up
Section 3: Global Issues in Environmental and Resource Economics				
Agriculture	11	Nov 1 & 3		T&L: Ch. 11
Pollution	12	Nov 8 & 10	HW #5 Assigned	T&L: Ch. 14
Common pool	13	Nov 15 & 17	HW #5 due 11/17 in class	T&L: Ch. 13
Climate Change	14	Nov 22	No class Nov 24 (holiday)	T&L: Ch. 16
	15	Nov 29 & Dec 1	Test 12/1	Catch-up
	16	Dec 6	Final Project due 12/6	Review
		Dec 16	Comprehensive final at 12:30 pm	

Mrs. Sharp 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 the Gatorlink e-mail listserv, and posted on E-Learning. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed of any changes.