

Economics of Natural Resource Use

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

Classroom: Florida Gym 0220

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Misti Sharp Schedule: Fall 2018						
Period	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	7:25 - 8:15					
2	8:30 - 9:20			Office Hours: 8:30 - 10:30		Office Hours: 8:30 - 10:30
3	9:35 - 10:25					
4	10:40 - 11:30		AEB 3103		AEB 3103	
5	11:45 - 12:35	AEB 3550	AEB 3103	AEB 3550	AEB 3103	AEB 3550
6	12:50 - 1:40	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
7	1:55 - 2:45	AEB 3510	AEB 2451	AEB 3510	AEB 2451	AEB 3510
8	3:00 - 3:50	Computer lab			AEB2451	
9	4:05 - 4:55	office hours: 3:00 - 4:30				
For appointments outside of office hours, email: mistisharp@ufl.edu ; phone: 352-294-7632						
Regular office hours in McCarty Hall A, room 1193						
Computer lab office hours in McCarty Hall B, room 3086						

Communication:

E-mail is the best way to reach me. As you may notice, my fall teaching load is such that it might be difficult to catch me in my office and waiting until the last minute is also risky. You need to be very timely in your emails should issues arise. Any issues that require action **MUST** be handled by email so that there is a written record of need. Phone calls and after class conversations are not likely to result in action.

Class cancellations, changes in office hours, meeting locations and 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: Mr. Jermaine Dunn; 1170 McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7638;
E-mail: j.dunn@ufl.edu

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Ms. Bijeta Bijen-Saha; 1172 McCarty Hall A; bijetabijen@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Monday: 9:35 – 11:30

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: Ms. Alyssa Davison; 1172 McCarty Hall A; abdavison97@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday: 12:50 – 1:50

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, land 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 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.

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/>).

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.
- **Required text:** Tietenberg and Lewis: Environmental Economics and Policy, 6th Edition. Other editions may be adequate. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the content is similar to the required text.
- **Top Hat:** We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.
 - You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

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- An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/837825>
Note: our Course Join Code is 837825
- Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.
- Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

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/) 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 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.) (gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu)	1 st Floor, Reitz Union	273-4450
Dean of students (http://www.dso.ufl.edu)	P202 Peabody Hall	392-1261
Counseling and wellness center (http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)	2190 Radio Road	392-1575
Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)	Infirmery Building	392-1161
Student health care center (http://shcc.ufl.edu)	Infirmery Building	392-1161
University Police Department (police.ufl.edu)		392-1111
Career Resource Center (http://www.crc.ufl.edu)	1 st Floor, Reitz Union	392-1601
FRE Undergraduate Staff (http://fred.ifas.ufl.edu/undergrad/)	1170 McCarty A	294-7640
UF Help Desk—Technical Support (helpdesk@ufl.edu)	1 st Floor, the HUB	392-4357
Library Support (http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask)	online	
Teaching Center (http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)	Broward Hall	392-6420
Writing Studio (http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/)	online	846-1138

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

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students 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.” The Honor Code (<http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/4.040-1.pdf>) (updated June 7, 2018) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Professional Etiquette: Use of technology (cell phones, tablets, and computers) is permitted for this course—indeed, it is required! In order to provide a productive environment conducive to everyone’s learning, adherence to the following guidelines is expected:

- Technology should be used productively! If you feel like you might not be able to say no to baseball games, social media, texting or other content contained on your device, then put it away when polling is not taking place! You are an adult who must be present daily both physically and mentally.
- Students are expected to be on-time for class. It is disruptive when students arrive late – not to mention disrespectful to myself and your fellow students. It may be the case that attendance is taken in the first few minutes of class, throughout the class or at the end of class. If you miss the attendance check in due to tardiness or inattentiveness, it counts as an absence.
- Leaving class early without prior permission is not tolerated; all material taught is important and missing even a small bit of it, is not fair to you or me who has spent hours preparing to teach you.
- You should avoid talking amongst each other once the lectures begin (this includes conversations about the material and the class itself). This includes during TopHat polling unless stated otherwise. I want an accurate assessment of the entire class, not just the ones who tell their friends the right answer. Please raise your hand if you have any questions or need me to repeat the material.

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- You are welcome to record lectures and/or take pictures as long as this is not distracting to you, me or your classmates.

If you cannot comply with these simple expectations, you may be asked to leave the classroom and you will be counted as absent. The instructor reserves the right to penalize any student violating these rules by deducting points from the student's grade as appropriate.

Class Structure: This is a blended lecture class meaning that there is a mixture of lecture, application (through TopHat polling), and in-class activities. All material will be posted on e-learning so as to provide equal access to all students but the only way to be sure you have all material and information is to attend class daily.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

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

Course Assignments:

Weekly assignments (best 10 of 12): Each week with the exception of exam weeks, there will be review problems and exercises related to the course material that will be due by midnight on Friday. These must be uploaded onto e-learning prior to the deadline. Late submissions will receive a grade of 0. Your final score will be composed of your best 10 of 12 assignments. It is in your best interest to attempt all assignments.

Student project: Each student must choose a topic in the class to explore deeper. This project will take the form of an academic poster, art project or news article as identified in a preliminary proposal (due in September) and will be presented to the class throughout the semester to supplement lectures. More information is forthcoming.

Exams (best 2 of 3): There will be two midterms and one final in this class. Each exam will include multiple choice questions related to assignments, readings and lectures. Each midterm exam will be weighted equally will not be *explicitly* cumulative. The final will be cumulative but will follow the same format as the midterm exams. If you miss a midterm for any reason, you are expected to take the final.

Attendance: This grade will be based on GPS confirmed daily attendance and participation in questions/discussions throughout lecture. 4 classes will be dropped in case of problems with technology or absence (excused or otherwise). Your attendance grade will be based on participation (checking in and answering all questions) as well as performance (correctness).

Course Grade Composition:

Category	Total Points	% of Total Grade
Weekly Assignments (best 10 out of 12)	150 points (15 points each)	30%
Student project	100 points	20%
Exams	200 (100 points each)	40%
Attendance/Participation	50 points	10%
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
C	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

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. This class adheres to UF grading policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Please note that grades are not ‘rounded’ or ‘adjusted’ at the end of the term. Hagging 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 exam is incorrectly graded or that your grade is incorrectly posted, please contact me via e-mail (i.e., in writing) as soon as possible. You have 7 days after the grade has been posted to voice your concern. After 7 days have passed, your posted grade will be assumed to be correct and accurate.

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.

Expectations and feedback:

I expect students to attend every class prepared to contribute and learn. This means that there should be no texting or otherwise distracting behavior during my lectures. 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. The lecture material is pulled from the book so the book is a fantastic resource for study.
- 2) Do the assignments including non-graded assignments. Practice exams are already available on e-learning and are often used to prepare exams. It is my intention that you will receive feedback in a timely manner for application projects. You are responsible for understanding areas that need improvement based on the grades and items missed on these assignments.
- 3) Attend class, participate and ask questions where appropriate. You should not be surprised at the end of the semester by your attendance grade. Statistics builds on itself so if you do not attend class daily, you might find that catching up is incredibly difficult. That being said, I will NOT repeat missed lectures during office hours or in the next class. All TopHat lectures will be assigned for review and any questions about that material will be answered during office hours.
- 4) Study for exams. While exams are a flawed form of assessment, they remain one of the best ways to assess INDIVIDUAL learning. If you do well on assignments, but fail exams, it is likely that your partner did all of the work as the exams are VERY similar to assignments. That being said, the best way to study for exams is to do assignments, read your book, and quiz yourself using previous exams which are available on e-learning
- 5) Know how to gauge your own course performance. Grades are earned, not given, and each point you earn from assignments, exams and attendance counts equally towards your final grade. Do not ask for bonus points throughout the semester or additional assignments at the end of the semester once you learn that you have not made the grade you preferred. If you begin to struggle, it is your responsibility to come see me during office hours or in a scheduled appointment to determine what steps should be taken on your part to ensure your success in the class. Earlier intervention is the best way to ensure that any problems get resolved.

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Schedule:

Topic	Week	Lecture Material
Part 1: Environmental Economics		
Introduction	1	Ch. 1
Economic Framework	2	Ch. 2, handouts
Valuation Methods	3	Ch. 3 & 5
Market failure	4	Ch. 4
Water Pollution (standards and taxes)	5	Ch. 18 & 14
Air Pollution (cap and trade)	6	Ch. 15 & 17
Climate Change	7	Ch. 16
Exam week/review	8	Midterm 1 expected Thursday, October 11th
Part II: Natural Resource Economics		
Introduction to Natural Resources	9	Ch. 7
Population/Land Use/Global Scarcity	10	Ch. 6, 10, 11
Common pool/fisheries	11	Ch. 13
Water	12	Ch. 9
Energy	13	Ch. 8
Resource Use for Sustainability	14	Ch. 20, 21, 22
Exam week	15	Midterm 2 expected Thursday, November 29th
Final Review	16	
Final Exam: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:30 am – 9:30 am		

Expected exam dates:

Midterm 1: Thursday, October 11, 2018

Midterm 2: Thursday, November 29, 2018

Final: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 from 7:30 am – 9:30 am

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 listserve, 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!