

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451
Economics of Natural Resource Use – Fall 2021

Period 7, Tuesday & Thursday 1:55 pm – 2:45 pm, and Period 8, Thursday 3:00-3:50	Classroom: FLG 220
Make an appointment: 	Dr. Misti Sharp, Lecturer and Undergraduate Coordinator, Food and Resource Economics. Office: McCarty Hall A , room 1189 Sharp Office Hours: Tuesday from 3:00 – 4:30 and Friday from 9:30 - 11:30 am. Email: mistisharp@ufl.edu Phone: 352-294-7632

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: E-mail (either to my email address or via canvas messaging) is the best way to reach Dr. Sharp. Any issues that require action MUST be handled by email so that there is a written record of need. I will not jump into my zoom meeting room if I see you there without advance notice of a proposed meeting; it is best to schedule a meeting with my bookings site (see QR code above).

Make sure to [enable emails for course announcements](#) and read this syllabus thoroughly! I post important announcements sparingly (no more than 1 per day and usually much less) and will not answer questions by email that are already answered via canvas announcements or the course syllabus.

Undergraduate Advisor: Ms. Danielle Shu; 1170B McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7640;
E-mail: 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: ddepatie@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistants: Nick Haley; room: [McCarty Hall B](#) 2120; nhaley@ufl.edu;
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:50 – 1:40 in MCCB 1088

Brian Ziegler; brianziegler@ufl.edu; OH in Marston on Thurs. from 4 - 5

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

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accessing E-learning, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352)-392-HELP or via 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.

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.

Class Structure: This class is scheduled for 1 period on Tuesday and 2 periods on Thursday. Classes will involve a mixture of lecturing, discussion, and various active learning activities all designed to help increase your understanding of the course topics. Masks are expected for all participants. Lectures will be recorded and provided to students on eLearning to ensure that students who feel sick do not come to class. Nevertheless, the only way to ensure that you have all information and earn all points for attendance is to attend class in person (this is not an online class). If you do get sick or have an absence that qualifies as an "excused" absence, please contact Dr. Sharp prior to class to ensure you are not penalized for missing class.

This class contains 6 modules (including a review module):

Module 0: Orientation and Economics Review

Module 1: Economic Valuation and Decision Making under Market Failure

Module 2: Pollution and Pollution Policies

Module 3: Global Sustainability and Agriculture

Module 4: Natural Resource Economics

Module 5: Energy and the Utility

Module 6: Water and Common Pool Resources

Your grade is composed of the following:

Resource Roundtable: Topics covered in this class are very much prevalent in your local community, state, country, and the world. Policy solutions that make everyone happy are almost impossible as they may not fully address the problem, may be costly to implement, or there may be polarization about the issue. For each module in this course, we will hold a resource roundtable wherein each student will represent a perspective on an issue of importance and lead a class discussion about possible policy solutions that are driven by data, economic theory, and incorporation of social values. Students will sign up for the resource roundtables in week 2 and then be assigned perspectives based on interests. You will be graded based on the quality of your contributions to the discussion (assessed by instructor and through peer evaluation), your participation in peer review, and a reflection of the roundtable discussion. Anticipated roundtable topics (see schedule at the end of the syllabus):

Roundtable 1: Valuing the Environment--Red Tide

Roundtable 2: Navigable Waters Rule

Roundtable 3: Paris Climate Agreement

Roundtable 4: Child Tax Credit

Roundtable 5: The Transition to Electric Cars

Roundtable 6: Conservation and GRU

Roundtable 7: Tri-state Water Wars

Roundtable 8: Shark finning

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/).

Final Exam: On December 17th at 12:30 – 2:30 pm, a cumulative final exam featuring multiple choice and open-response questions will be given. It may not be dropped and accounts for 16% of your course grade.

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Attendance/Participation: to create an interactive and educational class setting, I will be using Mentimeter to reward course attendance and participation. It is free to you and only requires the use of your cell phone, tablet, or computer (it is browser based). More information to come in class.

Course Grade Composition:

Category	Total Points	% of Total Grade
Resource Roundtable	50 points	20%
Assignments (best 5 of 6)	100 points (20 points each)	40%
Quizzes (best 5 of 6)	50 points (10 points each)	20%
Final Exam	40 points	16%
Attendance/participation	10 points	4%
Total	250 points	100%

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

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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...

Attendance 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/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> In general, you are expected to be in class each day and submit all work on time on e-Learning.

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.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students are 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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled.

The only allowable purposes are: (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge: “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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

Lauren’s Promise: I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year old honors student athlete, was murdered on October 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah Campus. We must all take actions to ensure this never happens again. Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Florida.

If you are experiencing sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, you can take the following actions:

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911.
- Report it to me, and I will connect you to resources.
- Seek confidential sources of support and help:
 - [UFPD Office of Victim Services](#): 51 Museum Road, 352-392-5648
 - [Sexual Assault Recovery Services \(SARS\)](#): Infirmary Building, 352-392-1161
 - Alachua County Rape Crisis Center (confidential): 352-264-6760

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The University of Florida’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) supports the University of Florida’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. By fostering a sense of belonging for students, staff, and faculty, while leveraging the uniqueness of the people who study and work at the university, we believe our campus community is enriched and enhanced by diversity, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexuality, class, and religion. This course will support an understanding of the diversity of our distance and campus communities as well as our agricultural and natural resource communities, locally and globally.

This course will strive to create a learning environment for students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives, and experiences while honoring your identities. In this class we will take the following approaches to help achieve this:

- All course participants will use the names and pronouns provided by students for use in class. If these differ from those that appear in official university records, you can change your Display Name at One.UF.
- If your performance in this course is being impacted by your experiences inside and/or outside the classroom, do not hesitate to contact the instructor and/or teaching assistant (TA). Instructors in CALs are a great resource for you and you may provide feedback anonymously. Feedback may result in general announcements to the class, if necessary, or reporting to appropriate UF personnel to address your concerns.
- CALs instructors and TAs like many people, are still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that makes you feel uncomfortable, please discuss with your instructor or TA or contact the CALs Dean’s Office (cals-dean@ufl.edu).

Tentative Course Schedule: ([link to online version](#))

Class	Day	Date	Notes	Module	Assignments	Reading
1	T	24-Aug	Syllabus and Economics Review	0		Syllabus
2	Th	26-Aug	Module 0, Part 1 (Micro review)	0	Module 0 due	Supplements
3	T	31-Aug	Module 0, Part 2 (Micro review)	0		Ch. 2

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4	Th	2-Sep	Module 1, Part 1 (Valuing the Env)	1	Sign up for RT	Ch. 2
5	T	7-Sep	FREE DAY -- Sharp out of Town			
6	Th	9-Sep	Module 1, Part 2 (Economic Valuation)	1		Ch. 3
7	T	14-Sep	Module 1, Part 3 (Market Failure)	1	Module 1 due	Ch. 4
8	Th	16-Sep	Module 2, Part 1 (Pollution)	2	Roundtable 1	Ch. 14, 18
9	T	21-Sep	Module 2, Part 1 (Pollution)	2		Ch. 14, 18
10	Th	23-Sep	Module 2, Part 2 (Climate Change)	2		Ch. 5, IPCC
11	T	28-Sep	Module 2, Part 2 (Climate Change)	2	Module 2 due	Ch. 5, IPCC
12	Th	30-Sep	Module 3, part 1 (Population)	3	Roundtable 2	Ch. 6, Hardin
13	T	5-Oct	Module 3, part 1 (Population)	3		Ch. 6, Hardin
14	Th	7-Oct	Module 3, Part 2 (Agriculture)	3		Ch. 10, 11
15	T	12-Oct	Module 3, Part 2 (Agriculture)	3	Module 3 due	Ch. 12
16	Th	14-Oct	Module 4, part 1 (Finite Natural Resources)	4	Roundtable 3/4	
17	T	19-Oct	Module 4, part 1 (Finite Natural Resources)	4		Ch. 7
18	Th	21-Oct	Module 4, Part 2 (Renewable Resources)	4		Ch 7, 12
19	T	26-Oct	Module 4, Part 2 (Renewable Resources)	4	Module 4 due	Ch. 7, 12
20	Th	28-Oct	Module 5, Part 1 (Energy sources)	5		Supplements
21	T	2-Nov	Module 5, Part 1 (Energy sources)	5		Ch. 8
22	Th	4-Nov	Module 5, Part 2 (Theory of the Utility)	5	Roundtable 5	Ch. 8
23	T	9-Nov	Module 5, Part 2 (Theory of the Utility)	5	Module 5 due	Supplements
24	Th	11-Nov	FREE DAY -- Veteran's day			Ch. 13
25	T	16-Nov	Module 6, Part 1 (Water)	6		
26	Th	18-Nov	Module 6, Part 1 (Water)	6	Roundtable 6	Ch. 13
27	T	23-Nov	Module 6, Part 2 (Fisheries)			Ch. 13
28	Th	25-Nov	FREE DAY -- Thanksgiving			
29	T	30-Nov	Module 6, Part 2 (Fisheries)		Module 6 due	Ch. 9
30	Th	2-Dec	Review of Resource Economics	4, 5, and 6	Roundtable 7/8	
31	T	7-Dec	Review for Final Exam			
33	Fri	17-Dec	Final Exam (12:30 - 2:30)			all

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!