

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451
Economics of Natural Resource Use

Spring 2019

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

Classroom: McCarty Hall C 100

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Misti Sharp	Email: mistisharp@ufl.edu
Office: 1193 McCarty Hall A	Phone: 352-294-7632
In-office hours: Monday from 11:00 – 12:35 and Thursday 11:45 – 1:40 and by appointment	
Zoom office hours: Friday from 10:40 – 12:35 (meeting ID: 902 541 919 or +1 646-558-8656) https://ufl.zoom.us/j/902541919	

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

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. Phone calls and 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: Mr. Jermaine Dunn; 1170 McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7638;
E-mail: j.dunn@ufl.edu
Office Hours: daily-- 9:00 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Undergraduate Program Assistant: Ms. Danielle Shu; 1170 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: ddepatic@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistants: Ms. Bijeta Bijen-Saha; 1172 McCarty Hall A;
E-mail: bijetabijen@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:55 pm – 3:50 pm

Ms. Savannah Salter; 1172 McCarty Hall A;
E-mail: savannah.salter@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Monday and Friday 8:15 am – 9:15 am

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451

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/>)

Course Summary: 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 sustainability.

Course Learning Objectives: after successful completion of AEB 2451, students should be able to:

- 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) Use 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 creative work.

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.
 - 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/7104982>
Note: our Course Join Code is 710482
 - 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.

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451

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/>.

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. All lecture notes will be provided on e-learning after class and lectures may be recorded with prior permission from the professor.

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
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.

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451

Class Structure: This class meets for 50 minutes on Tuesdays and for two 50 minute sessions on Thursdays. You are expected to attend the full class on both days. If you need to leave during the middle of class, you should inform me before the beginning of class. Classes will involve a mixture of lecturing, discussion, and various active learning activities all designed to help increase your understanding of the course topics. If you are presenting your project in class, all materials are expected to be uploaded onto e-learning no less than 30 minutes PRIOR to class. Failure to upload your materials and be prepared to present at the beginning of class will result in a 5 point penalty.

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. Late submissions, for any reason, will receive a grade of 0. As such, if you fail to upload an assignment before the deadline for any reason, it will be assigned a grade of 0. If you upload a corrupted file or the wrong file, you will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment. Submissions may be written or typed. 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 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).

**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 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	50 points	10%
Total	500 points	100%

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451

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.

**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 exam 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.

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 assignments. You are responsible for understanding areas that need improvement based on the grades and items missed on these assignments (see rubric within e-learning). If you have any questions about your grade on assignments, contact the teaching assistant.
- 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

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451

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.

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.

Important dates:

Sign-ups for projects: Thursday, January 17, 2019

Project Proposals: Thursday, January 24, 2019

Midterm 1: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

SPRING BREAK: March 4 – 8, 2019

Midterm 2: Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Reading Days: April 25-26, 2019

Optional Final: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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!

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451

Tentative Course Schedule:

Date	Class #	Lecture	Book Chapters	HW	Final Project	Week
1/8/2019	1	Syllabus and course expectations				1
1/10/2019	2	Microeconomics Review	Krugman (online)			1
1/15/2019	3	Valuing the Environment	T&L 2	HW1		2
1/17/2019	4	Valuing the Environment	T&L 2		Sign-up for project	2
1/22/2019	5	Valuation Methods	T&L 3	HW2		3
1/24/2019	6	Valuation Methods	T&L 3		Project Proposal Due	3
1/29/2019	7	Market Failure: Externalities	T&L 4	HW3		4
1/31/2019	8	Pollution (Externalities)	T&L 14, 18		Pollution	4
2/5/2019	9	Market Failure: Property Rights	T&L 4	HW4		5
2/7/2019	10	Climate Change	T&L 15, 16		Climate change	5
2/12/2019	11	Correction of Market Failure	T&L 4, 14, 15, 16	HW5		6
2/14/2019	12	Correction of Market Failure	T&L 4, 14, 15, 16		Environmental Policy	6
2/19/2019	13	The Population Problem	T&L 6	HW6		7
2/21/2019	14	Development, Poverty and the Environment	T&L 20			7
2/26/2019	15	Midterm 1				8
2/28/2019	16	Natural Resource Economics: An Overview	T&L 7			8
3/5/2019		Spring Break				9
3/7/2019		Spring Break				9
3/12/2019	17	Natural Resource Economics: Elasticity	Handouts	HW7		10
3/14/2019	18	Energy	T&L 8		Resources	10
3/19/2019	19	Energy	T&L 8	HW8		11
3/21/2019	20	Energy	T&L 8		Energy	11
3/26/2019	21	Water Resources	T&L 9	HW9		12
3/28/2019	22	Water Resources	T&L 9		Water	12
4/2/2019	23	Common Pool/Fisheries	T&L 13	HW10		13
4/4/2019	24	Common Pool/Fisheries	T&L 13		Fisheries	13
4/9/2019	25	Agriculture/land use/forestry	T&L 10, 11, 12	HW11		14
4/11/2019	26	Agriculture/land use/forestry	T&L 10, 11, 12		Agriculture	14
4/16/2019	27	Efficiency versus Conservation	T&L 19, 20, 21, 22	HW12		15
4/18/2019	28	Course Wrap up + Exam review				15
4/23/2019	29	Midterm 2				16
5/1/2019		Optional Final Exam	10:00 am - 12:00 pm			

****Check your e-learning announcements frequently for changes in this schedule!!**