

Course Syllabus: AEB 2451  
**Economics of Natural Resource Use**

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Spring 2020

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

Classroom: Pugh 170

**Instructor and Contact Information**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Dr. Misti Sharp             | Email: <a href="mailto:mistisharp@ufl.edu">mistisharp@ufl.edu</a>   |
| Office: 1193 McCarty Hall A | Phone: 352-294-7632   |
| Office hours:               | Monday from 10:40 – 11:30 in McCarty Hall B, room 3086 (computer lab)<br>Thursday from 11:45 – 1:40 in McCarty Hall A, room 1193<br>Friday 11:45 – 1:40 via zoom: (meeting ID: 902 541 919 or +1 646-558-8656)<br><a href="https://ufl.zoom.us/j/902541919">https://ufl.zoom.us/j/902541919</a> |

**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:**

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:** Ms. Danielle Shu; 1170B McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7640;  
E-mail: [dshu@ufl.edu](mailto: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](mailto:ddepatie@ufl.edu)

**Teaching Assistants:** Mr. Simon Codjo; 1094 McCarty Hall B;  
E-mail: [ocodjo@ufl.edu](mailto:ocodjo@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: Thursday from 8:30 – 10:30 am

Mr. Austin Whitaker; 1094 McCarty Hall B  
Email: [austinwhitaker@ufl.edu](mailto:austinwhitaker@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: Tuesday from 1:45 – 1:40 pm

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).
- **Required text:** Tietenberg and Lewis: Environmental Economics and Policy, 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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/386390>  
Note: our Course Join Code is 386390
  - Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: [www.tophat.com/pricing](http://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](mailto:support@tophat.com)), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

**Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://bluera.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.

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**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/](http://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.) ( <a href="http://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu">gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu</a> ) | 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Reitz Union | 273-4450 |
| Dean of students ( <a href="http://www.dso.ufl.edu">http://www.dso.ufl.edu</a> )   | P202 Peabody Hall                  | 392-1261 |
| Counseling and wellness center ( <a href="http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/">http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/</a> )                       | 2190 Radio Road                    | 392-1575 |
| Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)  | Infirmery Building                 | 392-1161 |
| Student health care center ( <a href="http://shcc.ufl.edu">http://shcc.ufl.edu</a> )   | Infirmery Building                 | 392-1161 |
| University Police Department ( <a href="http://police.ufl.edu">police.ufl.edu</a> )  |                                    | 392-1111 |
| Career Resource Center ( <a href="http://www.crc.ufl.edu">http://www.crc.ufl.edu</a> )   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Reitz Union | 392-1601 |
| UF Help Desk—Technical Support ( <a href="mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu">helpdesk@ufl.edu</a> )  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, the HUB     | 392-4357 |
| Library Support ( <a href="http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask">http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask</a> )  | online                             |          |
| Teaching Center ( <a href="http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/">http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/</a> )  | Broward Hall                       | 392-6420 |
| Writing Studio ( <a href="http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/">http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/</a> )                               | online                             | 846-1138 |

**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:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

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**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...

**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.

### Course Assignments:

*Weekly assignments (best 10 of 12):* Each week except for 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. 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. 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).

**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/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 (best 2 of 3)                    | 200 (100 points each)       | 40%              |
| Attendance                             | 50 points                   | 10%              |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>500 points</b>           | <b>100%</b>      |

**Grades and Grade Points:** Grades will be assigned as follows

| Grade | Percentage   | Total Points | Grade Points |
|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| A     | 93% or more  | ≥ 465        | 4.00         |
| A-    | 90.0 – 92.9% | 450 – 464    | 3.67         |
| B+    | 86.0 – 89.9% | 430 – 449    | 3.33         |
| B     | 83.0 – 85.9% | 416 – 429    | 3.00         |
| B-    | 80.0 – 82.9% | 400 – 415    | 2.67         |
| C+    | 76.0 – 79.9% | 380 – 399    | 2.33         |
| C     | 73.0 – 75.9% | 365 – 379    | 2.00         |
| C-    | 70.0 – 72.9% | 350 – 364    | 1.67         |
| D+    | 66.0 – 69.9% | 330 – 349    | 1.33         |
| D     | 63.0 – 65.9% | 316 – 329    | 1.00         |
| D-    | 60.0 – 62.9% | 300 – 315    | 0.67         |
| 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.

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see

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

**Academic Performance:**

Your grade on e-learning throughout the semester may not reflect your true performance in the course. You will earn points every single week in this semester and it is crucial that you do not “check-out” at any point in the semester. If you fall behind, you MUST come to my office right 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 email correspondence.
- 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.

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**Technology Policy:** You will be required to use either a cell phone, tablet or computer to participate in TopHat daily. These questions will be presented throughout the entire class so make sure that your device has enough charge to be used at any point in class. You may use your computer or tablet to take notes. You may not, however, use your technology to engage in distracting behaviors like accessing social media, sports events, etc. If I think your use of technology is distracting to you or your neighbors, I will draw attention to that in order to stop the distraction. Studies show that humans are not capable of multi-tasking so save yourself some grief and pay attention in class—what I'm saying is likely to be on an exam!

**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 16<sup>th</sup>

Project Proposals: Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Midterm 1: Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

SPRING BREAK: March 2 – 7

Midterm 2: Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Reading Days: April 23 – 24

Optional Final: Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30

*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!**

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**Tentative Course Schedule:**

| Date      | Class # | Lecture                                  | Book Chapters      | HW   | Final Project        | Week |
|-----------|---------|--|--------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| 1/6/2020  | 1       | Syllabus and course expectations         |                    |      |                      | 1    |
| 1/8/2020  | 2       | Microeconomics Review                    | Krugman (online)   |      |                      | 1    |
| 1/14/2020 | 3       | Valuing the Environment                  | T&L 2              | HW1  |                      | 2    |
| 1/16/2020 | 4       | Valuing the Environment                  | T&L 2              |      | Sign-up for project  | 2    |
| 1/21/2020 | 5       | Valuation Methods                        | T&L 3              | HW2  |                      | 3    |
| 1/23/2020 | 6       | Valuation Methods                        | T&L 3              |      | Project Proposal Due | 3    |
| 1/28/2020 | 7       | Market Failure: Externalities            | T&L 4              | HW3  |                      | 4    |
| 1/30/2020 | 8       | Pollution (Externalities)                | T&L 14, 18         |      | Pollution            | 4    |
| 2/4/2020  | 9       | Market Failure: Property Rights          | T&L 4              | HW4  |                      | 5    |
| 2/6/2020  | 10      | Climate Change                           | T&L 15, 16         |      | Climate change       | 5    |
| 2/11/2020 | 11      | Correction of Market Failure             | T&L 4, 14, 15, 16  | HW5  |                      | 6    |
| 2/13/2020 | 12      | Correction of Market Failure             | T&L 4, 14, 15, 16  |      | Environmental Policy | 6    |
| 2/18/2020 | 13      | The Population Problem                   | T&L 6              | HW6  |                      | 7    |
| 2/20/2020 | 14      | Development, Poverty and the Environment | T&L 20             |      |                      | 7    |
| 2/25/2020 | 15      | Midterm 1                                |                    |      |                      | 8    |
| 2/27/2020 | 16      | Natural Resource Economics: An Overview  | T&L 7              |      | Development/Poverty  | 8    |
| 3/3/2020  |         | Spring Break                             |                    |      |                      | 9    |
| 3/5/2020  |         | Spring Break                             |                    |      |                      | 9    |
| 3/11/2020 | 17      | Natural Resource Economics: Elasticity   | Handouts           | HW7  |                      | 10   |
| 3/12/2020 | 18      | Energy                                   | T&L 8              |      | Energy               | 10   |
| 3/17/2020 | 19      | Energy                                   | T&L 8              | HW8  |                      | 11   |
| 3/19/2020 | 20      | Energy                                   | T&L 8              |      | Common pool          | 11   |
| 3/24/2020 | 21      | Common Pool/Fisheries                    | T&L 9              | HW9  |                      | 12   |
| 3/26/2020 | 22      | Common Pool/Fisheries                    | T&L 9              |      | No presentations     | 12   |
| 3/31/2020 | 23      | Water                                    | T&L 13             | HW10 |                      | 13   |
| 4/2/2020  | 24      | Water                                    | T&L 13             |      | Water                | 13   |
| 4/7/2020  | 25      | Efficiency versus Conservation           | T&L 19, 20, 21, 22 | HW11 |                      | 14   |
| 4/9/2020  | 26      | Agriculture/land use/forestry            | T&L 10, 11, 12     |      | Agriculture          | 14   |
| 4/14/2020 | 27      | Agriculture/land use/forestry            | T&L 10, 11, 12     | HW12 |                      | 15   |
| 4/16/2020 | 28      | Course Wrap up + Exam review             |                    |      |                      | 15   |
| 4/21/2020 | 29      | Midterm 2                                |                    |      |                      | 16   |
| 4/30/2020 |         | Final Exam in regular classroom          | 12:30 - 2:30       |      |                      |      |

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