

ECON 381 A01

Environmental Economics

Fall 2026

Cross-listed as ES 312

CRNs: ECON 381 – 11146; ES 312 – 11609

Unit Value: 1.5

Instructor: Dr. Colette Salemi, csalemi@uvic.ca

Teaching assistant: Keddy Wright, keddyme@uvic.ca

Lecture: Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00–11:20 a.m., David Turpin Building A120

Course dates: September 9–December 7, 2026

Office hours: Wednesdays 9–10 AM on Zoom

Quiz viewing sessions: By appointment on Mondays 2:30–3:30 PM

Land acknowledgement: *We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

1 Learning objectives

Prerequisite: ECON 103.

In-person class: this class is in-person, consistent with the established format of this course and this department.

Quick summary: The environment is part of the economy: it provides inputs to production and serves as a sink for pollution. When natural resources and pollution sinks are overused, the resulting harms are often borne by people who are not directly involved in the transactions that produce them. Environmental economics studies these externalities and the policies that can bring social costs into private decisions.

This course introduces economic approaches to environmental management. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- explain the main economic and ethical approaches to environmental policy;
- evaluate how economists measure environmental benefits, costs, and ecosystem services;
- compare regulatory approaches, including command-and-control and incentive-based policies;
- analyze clean technology, energy, and environmental policy in both higher- and lower-income countries

Climate change appears throughout the course as an important application, but it is not the sole focus. Students seeking a course devoted primarily to the economics of climate change should consider ECON 383.

2 Textbook and learning technology

ECON 381 and ES 312 are identical courses and use the same Brightspace site. Brightspace contains the detailed Course Calendar (which lists quiz dates and reading assignments) as well as

the Course Reader. The Course Calendar may be adjusted if the pace of the course changes; any changes will be announced in class and on Brightspace. Brightspace is also used to compile raw quiz performances. The gradebook does not provide a real-time overall grade, and students are responsible for tracking this on their own.

Lecture slides are meant for illustrative purposes and do not constitute complete lecture notes. Students are responsible for attending class, taking notes, completing the assigned readings, and obtaining notes from classmates when they miss a lecture.

Required textbook: Eban S. Goodstein and Stephen Polasky, *Economics and the Environment*, 7th edition. Page references in the Course Calendar correspond to this edition. The instructor encourages students to borrow a copy from a peer, locate a PDF or electronic version, rent it, or order a used copy online. There is a copy on reserve at the Library.

All required readings outside the textbook are collected in the **ECON 381 Course Reader**, which is posted as a single PDF on Brightspace. Page references to these readings in the Course Calendar correspond to the reader's continuous page numbers. Students are encouraged to print a physical copy (Approximately \$25 for a coil-bound book at Zap Copy).

Brightspace does **not** display a continuously updated estimate of the final course grade - student are responsible for calculating their grade standing during the course.

3 Grade determination

ECON 381 follows the University of Victoria grading scale:

- A+ (90-100%); A (85-89%); A- (80-84%)
- B+ (77-79%); B (73-76%); B- (70-72%)
- C+ (65-69%); C (60-64%)
- D (50-59%)
- F (0-49%)

There is no N grade in this course: students either receive a passing letter grade or an F according to the grading scheme below.

3.1 Quizzes: 10 total; top 8 determine the final grade

Students complete 10 quizzes at the beginning of the class meetings listed in the Brightspace Course Calendar. There are no problem sets, midterm examinations, or final examination.

A student's final grade is based on their 8 highest quiz scores. The two lowest quiz scores are dropped. Each counted quiz is therefore worth 12.5% of the final grade.

Each quiz contains 10 multiple-choice questions and covers the lectures and readings identified in the Course Calendar. Students have 20 minutes to complete each quiz.

Quizzes are graded and returned through Crowdmark. Students will be able to see which responses were marked correct or incorrect. The original quiz questions and answer keys are not distributed because questions may be reused.

3.1.1 Quiz procedures

The following procedures apply to all in-class quizzes:

- **Assigned seating:** Students must sit in the assigned seat shown on the posted seating chart.
- **Personal items:** Bags, coats, hats, and other unapproved materials must be placed at the front of the classroom before the quiz begins.
- **Permitted items:** Writing utensils (pencils preferred), an approved calculator, student identification, and a beverage.
- **Washroom breaks:** Students may leave the classroom to use the washroom after submitting the quiz. They may not leave and then return to continue writing.
- **Timing:** Students must be present when the quiz begins. A student who arrives after quizzes have been distributed may not write that quiz and will receive a score of zero.

Students should prepare by completing the readings, attending class, taking notes, and reviewing the topics listed in the Course Calendar. Formal study guides are not provided. Collaborative studying and shared note preparation are encouraged, but all quizzes must be completed independently.

Students may arrange a short quiz viewing appointment to review their work during the Quiz Viewing time slots. These appointments are intended to clarify mistakes and grading, not to reproduce or distribute quiz questions. Quizzes must be viewed in person in the instructor's office during a booked ten minute slot booked in advance.

3.1.2 Missed quizzes

Except in the truly exceptional circumstances described below, quizzes cannot be rescheduled or rewritten. A missed quiz receives a score of zero and may become one of the student's two dropped quiz scores.

A student may be permitted to rewrite a quiz at a later date only in truly exceptional circumstances involving serious duress, such as the death of a parent. This option is reserved for circumstances far beyond ordinary illness, scheduling conflicts, or other routine disruptions. The instructor may request reasonable evidence that the circumstances are genuine.

Students who register after the beginning of the term receive scores of zero for quizzes held before they joined the course.

3.1.3 Quizzes and CAL accommodations

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) should release their accommodation letter to the instructor as early as possible and no later than one week before the first quiz for which accommodations are requested.

Students are responsible for following CAL booking procedures and deadlines. Quiz timing and location for students using accommodated testing will be confirmed through CAL and Brightspace. Because quizzes must be completed within a reasonably narrow time window, students should review their course schedules early and contact CAL promptly if a conflict arises.

Students who have an approved accommodation but prefer to write a particular quiz with the class may do so. They should make the choice that best supports their learning and access needs.

3.2 Introduction activity: 1 bonus point

Students may earn one bonus point toward their final grade by completing the Introduction Activity at the beginning of the term. The activity helps the instructor learn students' names and preferred forms of address.

Students complete the posted PowerPoint template and provide:

- the name shown on Brightspace;
- the name they would like the instructor to use;
- pronouns, if they wish to share them;
- home province, state, or country; and
- a clear, recent photograph showing their face.

Students may opt out of submitting a photograph. To receive the bonus point without a photo, the student should submit the remainder of the activity and introduce themselves to the instructor in person during office hours or after class.

3.3 Attendance and participation

Attendance is taken to help the instructor learn names and understand how students are engaging with the course. Attendance is not assigned a separate percentage of the final grade.

Students are expected to attend regularly, arrive on time, participate respectfully, and avoid conduct that interferes with their own learning or the learning of others. Students who miss class are responsible for obtaining notes and announcements from a classmate and checking Brightspace.

3.4 Grade adjustment

The instructor may deduct 1–5 percentage points from a student's final course grade for a documented serious incident or for documented repeated conduct after the student has been clearly directed to stop. This includes repeated disengagement, distraction, refusal to follow reasonable instructions, or other conduct that materially worsens the classroom experience. The amount of the deduction will reflect the seriousness and frequency of the conduct, and the student will be informed in writing of its basis and amount. This does not limit referral to an appropriate University office. Emails or meetings asking for additional points, rounding, or a higher letter grade will not result in a grade adjustment.

Students who believe an arithmetic or recording error has occurred should contact the instructor with a clear description of the issue. I only respond to grading inquiries in writing; requests to reconsider academic judgments should first be raised with the instructor within one week of the grade or answer key being released.

3.5 No additional extra credit opportunities

The Introduction Activity is the only bonus credit opportunity in ECON 381. Additional individual extra-credit assignments are not offered.

4 Class policies

4.1 No audio-visual recording

Lecture is not routinely recorded by the instructor. A recording may be posted only when the instructor must miss a class and an asynchronous video is used in place of that class.

Students are not permitted to record any part of the course. This includes photographing or filming the board or the instructor/TA without explicit permission.

Audio recording is not permitted unless a student has explicit permission documented in a CAL letter. In this case, the student with the appropriate CAL letter is not allowed to share the recording with others, and is not allowed to upload the recording to an LLM or AI platform.

Recording without permission violates the privacy of the instructor and the TA. If an unauthorized recording is used in conjunction with AI, it will additionally be treated as theft of the instructor's/TA's intellectual property and reported as academic misconduct.

4.2 Lecture slides and note-taking

The slides provide structure for lecture but do not reproduce everything discussed in class.

Students should take their own notes and use the readings to clarify and extend lecture material.

This format is intentional. The goal is to understand and connect ideas rather than memorize a complete script from the slides.

4.3 Artificial Intelligence

Students may use generative AI tools to support their studying and preparation for the course outside of class. However, students remain fully responsible for the accuracy of any information, explanations, or practice answers produced by those tools.

Generative AI tools may not be used while completing a quiz. Use of AI during a quiz will be treated as unauthorized assistance under the course's academic integrity rules.

4.4 Electronic devices

Electronic devices are discouraged but not banned during lecture. During all quizzes, no electronic or wearable device may be used or accessible except an approved non-graphing calculator. This includes laptops, tablets, phones, smart watches, smart glasses, earbuds, and similar devices. Prohibited devices must be powered off and stored in a closed bag or in another

location designated by the instructor, TA, or invigilator; they may not be worn, carried, or kept on the desk.

The instructor, TA, or invigilator may require a student to remove or briefly present glasses or another item for inspection to verify that it is not an electronic device. Refusal to comply with a reasonable inspection or storage instruction results in an automatic zero on the affected quiz and may also be documented and referred under University policy. Students who require electronic eyewear as an approved disability accommodation must arrange this through CAL in advance.

4.5 Classroom conduct and privacy

Students are expected to behave respectfully and professionally. Conduct that is rude, hostile, dishonest, disruptive, or needlessly distracting is not acceptable. This includes talking over others, making excessive noise, carrying on side conversations, refusing reasonable instructions, misrepresenting events, disrespecting peers or the instructor, or otherwise interfering with teaching or with other students' ability to learn.

The instructor may direct a student to stop their conduct, change seats, or leave the classroom. A student who is directed to leave must do so promptly and may be required to meet with the instructor or an appropriate university office before returning. Repeated or serious incidents may be documented and referred to the Department of Economics, the Office of Student Life, Campus Security, or another appropriate university office.

Potential academic integrity violations specific to ECON 381 include:

1. copying from another student, communicating with another person, or using banned technology, notes, AI, or other resources during a quiz;
2. recording the instructor or the TA without permission, particularly if the recording is used in conjunction with AI;
3. reproducing, distributing, or uploading quiz questions, answer keys, or other protected course materials without permission; and
4. refusing to comply with a reasonable assessment-related inspection, seating, storage, identification, or invigilation instruction.

Suspected violations will be addressed under the University of Victoria Policy on Academic Integrity. A quiz affected by academic misconduct may receive a score of zero, in addition to any other university process or penalty.

4.6 Emailing the instructor and TA

Email is appropriate for brief administrative matters that cannot be resolved through Brightspace or during office hours. Examples include:

- identifying an apparent error in slides, readings, or Brightspace;
- asking about a grade on a quiz;

- arranging an alternative meeting when a documented course conflict prevents attendance at regular office hours;
- asking a brief question that is not answered in the syllabus or on Brightspace;
- sharing a relevant article or current event; or
- requesting a letter of reference.

Students do not need to email simply to report a routine class absence. Requests to reschedule quizzes cannot be granted (except in truly exceptional circumstances, see Section 3.1.2). Questions requiring substantial explanation are usually better handled during office hours.

4.7 Addressing the instructor

The instructor uses she/her pronouns. Students may address her as Colette, Dr. Salemi, or Professor Salemi.

5 Calendar at a glance

The Brightspace Course Calendar contains the authoritative list of assigned readings, quiz coverage, and preparation instructions. The outline below provides a brief overview.

- **Week 1:** Course introduction; Lekwungen resource management
- **Week 2:** Ethics and economics; externalities and public goods
- **Week 3:** Applying the efficiency standard; WTP and WTA
- **Week 4:** Measuring environmental benefits
- **Week 5:** Measuring benefits in practice; costs of environmental regulation
- **Week 6:** Safety standard and environmental justice
- **Week 7:** Sustainability standard; measuring sustainability
- **Week 8:** Ecosystem services
- **Week 9:** Incentive-based regulation in theory
- **Week 10:** Reading break; incentive-based regulation in practice
- **Week 11:** Clean technology; guest presentation on residential heat pumps
- **Week 12:** Energy; poverty, population, and the environment
- **Week 13:** Clean technology in lower-income countries; political economy in lower-income countries
- **Week 14:** Political economy of international environmental agreements

6 Full citation list

The course reader contains the specific portions of each work assigned for ECON 381 rather than complete reproductions of every source. Unassigned sections, reference lists, and appendices have

sometimes been omitted to reduce the length and printing cost of the reader. These omissions do not indicate that the original publications have been altered or withdrawn. Students who wish to consult a complete work may locate it through the University of Victoria Library using the full citations below.

- Lutz, John Sutton. 2008. “The Lekwungen.” Chapter 4 in *Makúk: A New History of Aboriginal-White Relations*. Vancouver: UBC Press.
- Ando, Amy W., Titus O. Awokuse, Nathan W. Chan, Jimena González-Ramírez, Sumeet Gulati, Matthew G. Interis, Sarah Jacobson, Dale T. Manning, and Samuel Stolper. 2024. “Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and Systemic Racism.” *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 18(1): 142-164. <https://doi.org/10.1086/727693>
- Shiell, Leslie, and Suzanne Loney. 2007. “Global Warming Damages and Canada’s Oil Sands.” *Canadian Public Policy / Analyse de politiques* 33(4): 419-440.
- Salemi, Colette. 2026. “Willingness to Pay and Willingness to Accept in Theory.” ECON 381 course handout.
- Backstrom, Jesse D., and Richard T. Woodward. 2023. “Onsite Characteristics and Diversity Avoidance in Marine Recreational Fishing Demand.” *Marine Resource Economics* 38(4): 435-463. <https://doi.org/10.1086/726025>
- Ferrara, Ida, Stephen McComb, and Paul Missios. 2007. “Local Willingness-to-Pay Estimates for the Remediation of the Sydney Tar Ponds in Nova Scotia.” *Canadian Public Policy / Analyse de politiques* 33(4): 441-458. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cpp.33.4.441>
- Walker, W. Reed. 2013. “The Transitional Costs of Sectoral Reallocation: Evidence from the Clean Air Act and the Workforce.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 128(4): 1787-1835. <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjt022>
- Banzhaf, H. Spencer, Lala Ma, and Christopher Timmins. 2019. “Environmental Justice: The Economics of Race, Place, and Pollution.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 33(1): 185-208. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.33.1.185>
- Daily, Gretchen C. 1997. “Introduction: What Are Ecosystem Services?” In *Nature’s Services: Societal Dependence on Natural Ecosystems*, edited by Gretchen C. Daily, 1-10. Washington, DC: Island Press.
- Frank, Eyal, and Anant Sudarshan. 2024. “The Social Costs of Keystone Species Collapse: Evidence from the Decline of Vultures in India.” *American Economic Review* 114(10): 3007-3040. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20230016>
- Tietenberg, Tom H. 2013. “Reflections-Carbon Pricing in Practice.” *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 7(2): 313-329. <https://doi.org/10.1093/reep/ret008>
- Anti, Sebastian, Abubakr Ayesh, and Colette Salemi. 2026. “The Forest Cover Impacts of Improved Cookstoves.” International Growth Centre Working paper.

- Barstow, Christina K., Corey L. Nagel, Thomas F. Clasen, and Evan A. Thomas. 2016. “Process Evaluation and Assessment of Use of a Large Scale Water Filter and Cookstove Program in Rwanda.” *BMC Public Health* 16: 584.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-016-3237-0>

This is the end of the Syllabus as it pertains to ECON 381/ES 312. The remainder of this document contains standardized UVic information that the University expects instructors to include.

7 University policies and support systems

This course follows the undergraduate policies of the University of Victoria and the Department of Economics. Students should review the Department of Economics course-policy page and the University Calendar for current rules concerning academic concessions, academic integrity, grading, late registration, course repetition, review of grades, accessibility, waitlists, and student conduct.

7.1 Waitlist policies

- Instructors cannot independently admit students from a waitlist or raise the course enrolment cap.
- Waitlisted students should follow the Brightspace or instructor guidance provided for keeping up with early course material.
- Registered students who do not participate during the first seven calendar days of a full-term course may be dropped under Department of Economics policy.
- Students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping it promptly.
- Waitlist offers end after the final date for adding courses.

7.2 Repeating courses

A student may not attempt a course a third time without the prior approval of the Dean of the Faculty and the Chair of the Department in which the course is offered, unless the calendar course entry states that the course may be repeated for additional credit. A student who has not received this approval may be deregistered from the course at any point and may be asked to withdraw from their declared or intended program.

7.3 Academic integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to all scholarly work. At the University of Victoria (UVic), students are expected to comply with the university's academic regulations and must not engage in acts of dishonesty, falsification, misrepresentation, or deception in any academic work. Violations of [the University's academic integrity policy](#) may result in academic or disciplinary consequences.

7.4 Student conduct

Students are expected to follow the University's standards for respectful conduct. Behaviour that disrupts instruction, threatens safety, or targets others may be referred to the appropriate university office.

7.5 Academic concessions and religious observance

Students who experience circumstances beyond their control may be eligible for an academic concession under the University's Academic Concession Regulations; speak with the

Undergraduate Advisor if you need to apply for a concession. Students who anticipate a conflict between a course requirement and a religious observance should contact the instructor as early as possible to arrange an accommodation.

7.6 Appeals

Depending on the nature of a concern, students should normally try to resolve it in this order: the course instructor; the Associate Chair (econassoc@uvic.ca); the Associate Dean of Academic Advising; and the Senate. Students seeking a formal review of an assigned grade should also consult the academic calendar's regulations on the review of an assigned grade.

7.7 Human rights, equity, and fairness

The University is committed to a learning and working environment that is safe, respectful, and free from discrimination and harassment. Students can consult Equity and Human Rights for information, advice, and support.

7.8 Academic advising

Economics students may contact the Department of Economics undergraduate advising office at ecadvice@uvic.ca. Students may also use university-wide academic advising, the Centre for Academic Communication, and mathematics and statistics learning supports.

7.9 Accessibility and CAL

Students who experience disability- or chronic-health-related barriers may register with the Centre for Accessible Learning. Once an accommodation plan is in place, students should release their accommodation letter for the course and follow CAL procedures for activating and booking accommodations. I need your letter as early as possible – late notice limits what can realistically be arranged, especially for time-sensitive components like quizzes.

The instructor can implement approved accommodations but cannot independently create disability-related accommodations without documentation from CAL. Students who encounter difficulty obtaining or implementing an accommodation should contact CAL or the Office of the Ombudsperson.

See Section [3.1.3](#) for the quiz-specific procedures in this course.

7.10 Health and mental health services

The Student Wellness Centre provides medical care, counselling, and wellness support to students.

SupportConnect is a free and confidential 24/7 mental-health support service for UVic students:

- Toll-free in North America: 1-844-773-1427
- International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

Students seeking support are encouraged to contact these services early rather than waiting for a concern to become a crisis. In an immediate emergency, call 911 or Campus Security at 250-721-7599.

7.11 International student resources

International students are held to the same academic standards as all other students and are welcome to use the full range of course and university supports.

The International Centre for Students provides immigration advising, transition support, and programs through the Global Community. Students who would benefit from language or academic-writing support should also consult the Centre for Academic Communication.

7.12 Student Experience of Learning Survey

Near the end of term, eligible students will be invited to complete the confidential Student Experience of Learning (SEL) Survey. UVic requires at least five students in a CRN for a survey to be administered; this applies separately to cross-listed courses. Students registered in ES 312 therefore will not receive an SEL survey if fewer than five students are enrolled under that CRN. Questions or concerns about this policy should be directed to Learning and Teaching Innovation (LTI).

7.13 Sexualized violence prevention and response

Students are encouraged to review the University's sexualized-violence prevention and response resources. Students seeking information, advice, or support may contact the Sexualized Violence Resource Office through Equity and Human Rights.

7.14 Indigenous student and community supports

The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement provides programs and supports for Indigenous students and the wider university community, including access to local Elders and Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

7.15 Additional student resources

Additional University resources include UVic Learn, the University Library, the Centre for Academic Communication, the Learning Assistance Program, Student Awards and Financial Aid, and the Office of the Ombudsperson. Students may consult these services directly as relevant to their circumstances.