



ECON 381 A01 (cross-listed as ES 312)
Environmental Economics
CRN #11189

Winter Session: 2022 09 – 2022 12

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Please note that this syllabus is subject to small changes during the semester

Course Content

This course explores economics frameworks for environmental management. We will consider strategies and challenges related to the environment as a production source (natural resource use) and a waste sink (atmospheric, water, and land pollution). Key topics include: (1) environmental externalities and public goods provision;(2) efficiency, safety, and sustainability standards of environmental use and damage; (3) measuring the costs and benefits of environmental protection; (4) global governance and the environment; (5) valuation of ecosystem services; (6) poverty, inequality, and the environment; (7) incentive-based regulation; (8) the political economy of environmental policymaking.

Textbook

The required text is **Economics and the Environment** (9th ed.) by Eban Goodstein and Steve Polasky (G&S). Students can rent the textbook for 120 days online [here](#) at a low cost (23\$ US). The 120 day rental is long enough to cover the entire course timeframe.

Supplementary readings from outside of the textbook will be provided as PDFs on the Brightspace page.

Grading

Given student performances on the requirements listed below, final grades will be assigned based on the university’s grading scale.

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

The table below lists all of the requirements of the course that will determine each student’s final grade.

Requirement	Number	Date of requirement	Percent of grade
Discussion section exercises	9	Completed during Friday sessions as indicated by the course calendar	20
Problem sets	6	Due dates indicated on the course calendar	20
Midterm exam	2	October 11 th and November 4 th	30
Final exam	1	TBD	20
Participation		Entire semester	10

Below is a description of each requirement with late/missing penalties described.

1. **Discussion section exercises (20%)** – Unless noted in the calendar, Fridays serve as a discussion section during which we will do practice problems together, complete class experiments, or have small group discussions. On discussion section days, students will receive a discussion section exercise that they complete during our meeting together and submit.

Missed discussion section exercises – If a student misses a discussion section exercise because of an unexcused absence, they will receive a zero. If a student misses because of an excused absence, they can meet the instructor to complete the exercise at a later date.

2. **Problem sets (20%)**– There will be six problem sets assigned throughout the semester. Students must work on the problem sets independently (no group work allowed).

Extensions – a student who cannot finish their problem set on time can request a short extension to the deadline and receive no grade penalty. The student **must email the instructor over 24 hours before the problem set deadline** to request an extension. Otherwise, the assignment will be treated as late.

Late problem sets will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade for each day late for one week. After a week, the student will receive a zero.

3. **Midterm (30%)** – there are two 50-minute midterms on Oct. 11th and Nov. 4th. Students who miss the midterm because of an excused absence will have the opportunity to complete the exam the week after the midterm. Failure to complete the midterm will result in a score of zero.
4. **Final exam (20%)** – the final exam will be announced at the end of October. It will focus on the remaining chapters of G&P, as well as readings from outside of the textbook as indicated by the instructor. Failure to complete the final exam will result in a score of zero.

5. **Participation (10%)** – this score is determined by the instructor based on a student’s performance in the class. Key factors that determine the participation score:
- a. **Attendance** – does the student show up to class?
 - b. **Engagement** – is the student making an effort during class activities? Is the student following lectures?
 - c. **Office hours** – does student seek out help in a timely fashion when they need it?

Brightspace

Materials for this course will be organized on the Brightspace page, with each week represented as its own Module. The week’s module will list the reading assignments, store the lecture slides for the week and also contain any additional readings shared as PDFs. A separate module stores all problem sets and answer keys.

E-mail correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear...), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **full name**. Text message lingo should not be used.

COVID-19 policies

The instructor will not wear a mask during lecture. Students are encouraged to wear masks but not required. Illness due to COVID is considered a legitimate reason to be absent for class.

Electronic devices

Students can use laptops and tablets to take notes during lectures, reviews, and discussion sections. Mobile phone use is prohibited in the course.

Course calendar

The course calendar is listed on the next page. It lists each day the course meets and the topic of each lecture, review, or discussion session. It also lists deadlines for different requirements, which are color coded as follows:

- **Required readings (G&P = Goodstein and Polasky, the main textbook)**
 - *Indicates the reading a student must complete before the lecture*
- **Discussion section exercises (DSE)**
 - *These are completed during a given Friday discussion section*
- **Problem sets (PS)**
 - *Must be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date listed*
- **Midterm exam dates**

ECON 381 Fall 2022 Course Calendar

No.	Dates	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
1	Sept. 7-9	No class	Introduction to the course	Review day: principles of microeconomics; complete DSE 1
2	Sept. 13-16	Introduction to Environment Economics through the prism of climate change (G&P Ch. 1)	Ethics and environmental economics (G&P Ch. 2)	Discussion Day 1: ethical dilemmas in environmental economics; PS1 due; complete DSE 2
3	Sept. 20-23	Pollution and resource degradation as externalities (G&P Ch. 3)	The efficiency standard (G&P Ch. 4)	Discussion Day 2: Externality models, the efficiency standard, the Coase theorem; complete DSE 3
4	Sept. 27-28	Measuring the benefits of environmental protection (G&P Ch. 5)	Measuring the costs of environmental protection; (G&P Ch. 6); PS2 due	<i>No class - Truth and Reconciliation</i>
5	Oct. 4-7	The safety standard (G&P Ch. 7)	The sustainability standard (G&P Ch. 8)	Discussion Day 3: Cost-benefit analysis, the safety standard; Complete DSE 4
6	Oct. 11-14	Midterm 1: G&P Ch. 1-7	Measuring sustainability (G&P Ch. 9)	Discussion Day 4: Sustainability; Complete DSE 5
7	Oct. 18-21	Ecosystem services (G&P Ch. 10); PS3 due	Is more better? (G&P Ch. 11)	Discussion Day 5: Measuring sustainability; Complete DSE 6 ;
8	Oct. 25-28	Guest lecture on ecosystem services: Dr. Steve Polasky (no reading due)	The political economy of environmental regulation (G&P Ch. 12); PS4 due	Discussion Day 6: Ecosystem services; Complete DSE 7
9	Nov. 1-4	Environmental legislation in Canada: Ben Lukenchuk (reading TBD)	Incentive-based regulation: theory (G&P Ch. 15)	Midterm 2: G&P Ch. 8-12
10	Nov. 8-11	Incentive-based regulation: practice (G&P Ch. 16)	<i>No class, reading break</i>	<i>No class, reading break</i>
11	Nov. 15-18	Technology and energy (G&P Ch. 17)	Energy and the future (G&P Ch. 18)	Discussion Day 7: incentive-based regulation; Complete DSE 8; PS5 due
12	Nov. 22-25	Poverty, population, and environment (G&P Ch. 19)	Arctic communities and the environment in Canada: Sara Enns (reading TBD)	Discussion Day 8: energy; Complete DSE 9
13	Nov. 29-30, Dec. 2	Environmental policy in poor countries (G&P Ch. 20)	The economics of global agreements (G&P Ch. 21) PS6 due	Review for final

Course Policies

This course adheres to the Undergraduate Course Policies of the Department of Economics. At the request of the department, some of the important policies are listed below.

Examinations

Participation for all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Waitlist and Course Dropping Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course, and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Review What is Plagiarism for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness

The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

See General University Policies

Accessibility & Health Resources

Centre for Accessible Learning

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Health Services - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

Support Connect - a 24/7 mental health support service for students

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

Counselling Services - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

Elders' Voices - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact svpcoordinator@uvic.ca.

UVic 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.