



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

Spring Session: 2023 01 – 2022 04

Instructor Name: Dr. Colette Salemi

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Course meeting time: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 AM – 9:20 AM

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM or by appointment

Version 2 (Jan. 10th, 2023)

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.

Table with 10 columns representing grade ranges: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, F or N. Corresponding score ranges are listed below each grade.

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

Requirement	Number	Date of requirement	Percent of grade
Intro. activity	1	Due by Wednesday Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> at 1 PM	5
Attendance		Every class meeting (six exemptions)	20
Problem sets	5	Due dates indicated on the course calendar	25
Midterm exam	2	October 11 <sup>th</sup> and November 4 <sup>th</sup>	30
Final exam	1	TBD	20

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

- 1. Introduction activity (5%)** –the purpose of this activity is to ensure that the instructor knows the names and key information about each student. As part of the activity, every student is required to submit a slide introducing themselves. The slide template will be disseminated on Brightspace. Students are required to list their name (as it appears on Brightspace), their preferred name, the pronouns they use, and their home province/state and country. Students are required to either add an appropriate photo clearly showing their face (no filter) to the introduction slide, or to add a nature photo, if the student prefers to not share a picture with the instructor. If a student chooses not to share a picture, they are required to schedule a 1-on-1 meeting with the instructor in the first two weeks of class, either during or outside of Office Hours.

To protect student privacy, all introductory slides will be stored on an encrypted computer. The instructor is the only person with access to the slides, and all slides will be deleted after the end of the semester.

If a student submits a disrespectful or inappropriate photo, the penalty will be severe, as the misconduct will be immediately reported to the Economics department chair.

- 2. Attendance (20%)** – Truancy is a chronic problem in higher education at the moment. When students are chronically absent from class, they perform poorly and either fail the course or pass with a bad grade that brings down their GPA. This course uses an attendance policy to help prevent students from falling into tempting but self-destructive habits.

The instructor will be taking attendance at the start of every class session. **Students who arrive late will be counted as absent.**

Sometimes there are very legitimate reasons for students to miss class. Consequently, the attendance policy is designed to give you some flexibility. All students in the course are given permission to miss up to **six** class sessions without penalty. Hence, if a student attends 27 of our 33 regular class lectures, the student’s attendance will technically be perfect.

If an unforeseen circumstance requires a student miss more than six classes, the student must reach out to the instructor to explain the situation. This gives the instructor the opportunity to extend an exception to a student facing unusual and difficult circumstances.

Students are **NOT** to contact the instructor about missing class unless serious illness or unavoidable responsibilities result in the student having to miss more than six class meetings.

Please note the following grading policy for attendance:

<b>Number of classes attended</b>	<b>Score (out of 100)</b>
27-33	100
24-26	70
21-23	60
18-20	40
17 or fewer	0

**Class disruptions, the Two Strike Policy, and attendance:** the instructor maintains the power to remove students from a class if they are being disruptive or violating class conduct rules (see Classroom Behavior guidelines in the Class Rules section). The instructor uses a **“two strike”** policy: a student disrupting others and the lecture receives one warning from the instructor that they are violating classroom behavior policies. If the student violates the class conduct code a second time, they will be removed from the class for that day and will receive no credit for attendance.

- 3. Problem sets (25%)**– There will be five problem sets assigned throughout the semester. Problem sets will be completed on Brightspace and will consist of a mix of multiple-choice questions, numeric response questions, and short written response questions. Students may work in groups on their problem sets, but students must submit their own work. If students cheat by submitting identical work, the instructor will report this as an academic misconduct violation.

**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.

- 4. Midterm (30%)** – there are two 50-minute midterms on Tuesday, January 31st and Tuesday, February 28th. Students who miss the midterm because of an excused absence will have the opportunity to complete the exam shortly after. Failure to complete the midterm will result in a score of zero.
- 5. Final exam (20%)** – the final exam will be announced during the semester. It is not a cumulative exam, as it focuses 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.

- 6. Instructor discretion and the Five Point Rule** – the course instructor exercises some discretion over marginally adjusting final class scores up or down by five points. Up to five points can be added to a student’s score based on their engagement in the course (participating in class activities, coming to office hours to talk about material and ideas, etc.). This mechanism is also meant to aid students who demonstrably work hard during the semester but struggle with the technical aspects of the material. The five-point rule can also be used to penalize students by reducing their final score up to five points. Penalties arise when students are repeatedly disruptive in class or disrespectful to the instructor or others.

## Class Rules

- 1. Addressing your instructor** – the instructor is very flexible with this. Please refer to her as “Colette”, “Professor Salemi”, “Professor Colette”, or “Dr. Salemi”, depending on whatever you are most comfortable with. Please note the instructor’s family name is pronounced “Sah-lem-me”.
- 2. Email correspondence** – students are welcome to email the instructor for help on problem sets, ask for clarifying information, or to set up a time outside of office hours to meet. Students are **not** to email the instructor about absences unless unforeseen circumstances require that they miss more than six classes. Unless this is the case, **the instructor will not respond to your email about missing class.**

**All email correspondence must be conducted using University of Victoria email accounts.**

The instructor will **NOT** respond to email delivered from any account except an @uvic.ca account.

- 3. Classroom behavior** – the following behaviors are prohibited. Based on the Two Strike rule (see previous section), repeated violations of these rules can result in the student being removed from the classroom.
  - a. No talking while the instructor is lecturing** – if you get lost and need help, please raise your hand and ask a question, or approach the instructor after class for clarification.
  - b. No mobile phone recordings allowed** – it’s okay if students check their phones now and then in class. But students are absolutely prohibited from holding their phones up to record in class and will immediately receive a strike. When students record their instructor without consent, they are violating the instructor’s privacy.
- 4. Electronic devices such as laptops and tablets are allowed** as long as they are not distractions. The instructor can tell when a student is using their device to take notes and when they’re using it to browse social media. Students who are frequently distracted by their devices will be penalized, either by the Two Strike Policy or the Five Point Rule.
- 5. COVID-19** – COVID is still with us. The attendance policy is intentionally designed so that a student recovering from COVID has sufficient time to get better and self-isolate without receiving any attendance penalty. To ensure lecture clarity, the instructor will not wear a mask during class. She is happy to wear a mask in office hours based on student preference (please ask

if this is the case). Students are encouraged to make their own decision on whether they prefer to wear a mask in class.

### **Additional class norms**

- 1. Slides are a complement to lecture, NOT a substitute for lecture** – your instructor treats the slides as an outline for her lecture, so not all of the information covered during lecture will be on the slides. It is therefore crucial that students attend class so they can listen to the lecture and take notes.
- 2. Participation is expected, but there are different ways to participate** – during class meetings, students will be encouraged to share their ideas and questions in class. The instructor expects students to participate based on the degree to which they are comfortable doing so. If a student is nervous about speaking in front of a large class, that is completely understandable, but they are still expected to contribute to small group discussions when prompted.
- 3. Completing the assigned readings will help students succeed in the class** – the lectures are designed to clarify difficult material in the readings and to critically interrogate the readings. Repeated interaction with the material (by doing the reading and attending lecture) greatly helps students enhance comprehension and get the most out of class discussion. The instructor will not penalize students when she suspects they have not done the reading. Nevertheless, it is crucial that students understand that foregoing reading assignments to save time today will add to the time it takes them to study for exams and complete problem sets later.
- 4. Reading peer reviewed publications in Economics** – some of the readings assigned for this course, such as Foster and Rosenzweig (2003), are technically challenging. When reading complicated material like this, it is important for the student to focus on the overall ideas and not get bogged down trying to interpret all the math and econometrics. The instructor will talk more about strategies to pursue challenging readings in class.
- 5. Syllabus changes** – the syllabus is subject to change during the course throughout the term. For example, the instructor may move a problem set assignment date or remove a topic/reading. Please stay up to date by using the most recent syllabus version uploaded on Brightspace.

### **Course calendar**

The course calendar is listed on the next page. It lists each week the course meets, the topics for that week, and the assigned readings. It also lists deadlines for different requirements, which are color coded as follows:

- **Required readings (G&P = Goodstein and Polasky, the main textbook)**
  - *Documentary to watch for Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>: [There's Something in the Water](#)*
- **Problem sets (PS)**
  - *Must be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date listed*
- **Midterm exam dates**

## ECON 381 Spring 2023 Course Calendar

Wk.	Dates	Tues	Wed	Fri
1	Jan 10th-13th	Introduction to the course	Environmental regulation as a normative problem, <b>G&amp;P Ch. 2</b>	First Nations environmental management; <b>Lutz Ch. 4 (skim)</b>
2	Jan 17th-20th	Externalities and the open access problem; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 3</b>	Externalities and the open access problem; <b>Hardin 1968</b>	The efficiency standard; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 4</b>
3	Jan 24th-27th	The efficiency standard; <b>reading TBD</b>	Measuring the benefits of environmental regulation; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 5</b>	Measuring the benefits of environmental regulation; <b>Ferrara et al. 2007; PS1 due</b>
4	Jan 31st-Feb 3rd	Measuring the costs of environmental regulation; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 6</b>	<b>Midterm #1</b>	The safety standard; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 7</b>
5	Feb 7th-10th	Environmental racism and the Summers memo; <b>watch documentary</b>	The sustainability standard; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 8</b>	The sustainability standard; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 8; PS2 due</b>
6	Feb 14th-17th	Measuring sustainability; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 9</b>	Measuring sustainability	Natural resource models; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 10</b>
7	Feb 21st-24th	<i>Reading break</i>		
8	Feb 28th - March 3rd	Natural resource models; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 10D</b>	Natural resource models; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 11</b>	Ecosystem services; <b>Costanza et al. 1997; PS3 due</b>
9	March 7th-10th	<b>Midterm #2</b>	Incentive-based regulatory theory; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 15</b>	Incentive-based regulatory theory; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 15 appendix</b>
10	March 14th-17th	Incentive-based regulation in practice; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 16</b>	Clean technology; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 17</b>	Clean technology/energy and emissions; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 17-18</b>
11	March 21st-24th	Energy and emissions; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 18</b>	Population, poverty, and environment; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 19</b>	Economic growth and forest cover; <b>Foster and Rosenzweig 2003; PS4 due</b>
12	March 28th-31st	Governing the Commons; <b>Ostrom Ch. 1</b>	Environmental policy in poor countries; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 20</b>	Environmental policy in poor countries; the economics of global agreements; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 20-21</b>
13	April 4th-5th	The economics of global agreements; <b>G&amp;P Ch. 21</b>	Review for final exam; <b>PS5 due</b>	<i>No class</i>

## **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](http://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](mailto: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.*