Economics 3620-01: Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, Fall 2018
Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00 – 10:05 AM, LEML 122

PROFESSOR: Dr. Gareth Green
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Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 1 – 2 PM or by appointment


DESCRIPTION: The allocation of scarce resources is the central concern of economics. Natural and environmental resources (such as fish, forest, water, air, and climate) for preservation and consumption are becoming increasingly scarce. This course will focus on applying economic analysis to the management of these resources and consider efficient and effective policy design to preserve these resources while recognizing the need for resource consumption. Students will read and discuss material from the text and articles on environmental and natural resource economic topics, including market failure, costs of environmental protection, non-market valuation, benefit-cost analysis, environmental policy, management of renewable resources, and environmental quality.


READING ASSIGNMENTS: There will be a reading assignment to be completed BEFORE most class meetings. You are expected to read the assigned pages. Each day in class, we will discuss the reading and work through applications of the material.

PARTICIPATION: There will be a number of in-class participation activities that account for 20% of the course grade. In-class activities will vary in difficulty and points and serve as the basis for quiz questions. You must be in attendance to receive credit. No makeup activities will be offered (without a full day prior notice of absence). The lowest score will be dropped from the participation grades.

HOMEWORK: There will be 4 homework assignments during the quarter. Homework is vital to gauging your understanding of the material. Assignments are due at the beginning of lecture; late assignments will not be accepted (without prior notice).

QUICK PROJECTS: There will be 2 quick projects during the quarter. One is posted in Homework #1, the second will be introduced after the mid-term.

EXAMS: There will be 2 exams given during class covering course material. No make-up exams will be given (without prior notice).

GRADING: Grades are based on the following assignments:

- Participation activities (20+- points total)
- Homework (10 points each, 40 points total)
- Quick projects (20 points each, 40 points total)
- Exams (50 points each, 100 points total)

200+- points possible

Course grades will be assigned at the end of the quarter based on the student's relative numerical standing in class based on the points given above.
GRADING: A tentative grading schedule is:
A range: 90-100% of total points
B range: 80-89% of total points
C range: 70-79% of total points
D range: 60-69% of total points
F range: less than 59% of total points
The grading schedule is subject to change during the course of the quarter based on the overall performance of the class, but it will not be made more difficult. Plus/minus grades are based on +/- 3% from the ranges given above.

TOPIC OUTLINE: Below is a list of the topics covered. A list of topics, reading, and important dates is included on the Tentative Course Schedule.

Section I: Introduction and review
Section II: Market failure
1. Externalities
2. Public goods
Section III: Benefits, costs and the environment
1. Costs of environmental protection
2. Non-market valuation and the benefits of environmental protection
3. Benefit-cost analysis
4. Discounting the future
Section III: The means of environmental policy
1. Instrument choice
2. The “success” of economic policy instruments
3. The ethics of policy instruments
Section IV: Natural resource economics
1. Fisheries
2. Energy
3. Water
Section V: Environmental economics
1. Air and water
2. Climate change

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: The use of laptops, netbooks or PDAs in class to take class-notes, view PowerPoints or work on class projects is encouraged. However, please do not use laptops, netbooks or PDAs (cellphones, hand-helds) in class for any non-class related activity (including instant messaging, web-browsing, etc.) unless specifically suggested by the instructor.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES:
• Library and Learning Commons (http://www.seattleu.edu/learningcommons/)
  (This includes: Learning Assistance Programs, Research [Library] Services, Writing Center, Math Lab)
• Academic Integrity Tutorial (found on Canvas and SU Online)

ACADEMIC POLICIES ON REGISTRAR WEBSITE:
• https://www.seattleu.edu/redhawk-axis/academic-policies/
• Academic Integrity Policy
• Academic Grading Grievance Policy
• Professional Conduct Policy (only for those professional programs to which it applies)
NOTICE FOR STUDENTS CONCERNING DISABILITIES: If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an ‘invisible disability’ such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff located in Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EQUITY: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. This prohibition includes sexual misconduct, which encompasses sexual harassment and sexual violence. Seattle U remains committed to providing a safe and equitable learning, living, and working environment. Seattle U offers emergency, medical, and other support resources, as well as assistance with safety and support measures, to community members who have experienced or been impacted by sexual misconduct.

Seattle U requires all faculty and staff to notify the University’s Title IX Coordinator if they become aware of any incident of sexual misconduct experienced by a student.

For more information, please visit https://www.seattleu.edu/equity/. If you have any questions or concerns, you may also directly contact the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Equity (email: oie@seattleu.edu; phone: 206.296.2824) University Resources and Policies.