

Seattle University
Albers School of Business and Economics
Economics 3620 | Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
Fall 2021
Monday and Wednesday 3:40 – 5:45 PM

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday by appointment

Overview, Objectives, and Prerequisites

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.

Success in this course requires familiarity with introductory microeconomics (ECON 2110 and ECON 2130 are prerequisites).

Textbook: Kolstad, Charles D., *Environmental Economics*: Oxford University Press (1st or 2nd ed.)

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 and online participation activities that account for 10% of the course grade. Activities will vary in difficulty and points. You must be in attendance to receive credit. No makeup activities will be offered. The lowest score will be dropped from the participation grades.

Homework Assignments: There will be four 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.

Projects: There will be two group projects involving economic analysis of real environmental policy issues. I cannot accept late submissions, in part because we will discuss the findings in class. At the end of the quarter, students will evaluate the contributions of their group members.

The course includes numerous opportunities for in-class or online discussion. In addition to the scheduled discussions of journal articles and course projects, I welcome questions and insights during lectures.

Exams: The course includes a midterm and a comprehensive final exam. If you cannot be present for an exam due to a work conflict or an emergency, please let me know in advance so that we can reschedule the exam as soon as possible.

Classroom Etiquette

Laptops, tablets, and similar forms of technology may be used in this class for note taking and for viewing course materials as long as their use does not interfere with your participation or engagement in class discussions. Surfing the web, checking email, texting, and similar activities are distracting to students and to me and ultimately detrimental to the learning environment. Please do not use any of these forms of technology during a guest lecture.

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)

University Policies

Academic Policies (<https://www.seattleu.edu/redhawk-axis/academic-policies/>)

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Grading Grievance Policy
- Professional Conduct Policy

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) 2965740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.

Notice Regarding Religious Accommodations

It is the policy of Seattle University to reasonably accommodate students who, due to the observance of religious holidays, expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship during certain days of their academic course or program. Please see, *Policy on Religious Accommodations for Students* (<https://www.seattleu.edu/media/policies/Policy-on-ReligiousAccommodations-for-Students---FINAL.PDF>).”

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: ois@seattleu.edu; phone: 206.296.2824).

Grading	Percent
Participation	10%
Homework	20%
Group Projects	20%
Contributions and Peer Reviews	10%
Midterm Exam*	20%
Comprehensive Final Exam	20%

** The final exam is comprehensive and includes all material from the midterm exam. If your score on the final exam is greater than the score on the midterm, your final exam score will replace your midterm score.*

Course Outline

- Introduction to Economics and the Environment: Chapters 1 and 2
- The Value of Environmental Goods: Chapter 3
- Markets and the Environment: Chapters 4 and 5
- Nonmarket Valuation: Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10
- Natural Resource Economics: Other Reading Materials
- Environmental Regulation: Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15

Assigned Readings

The last page of each Canvas module lists the assigned readings for the following class session. Discussion questions for selected readings are also posted. The quantity and quality of your contributions to class and online discussions influence your grade in this course.

Key Dates

September 22	First Class
September 29	Homework #1 Due
October 11	Homework #2 Due
October 20	Group Project #1 Due
October 27	Midterm Exam
November 8	Homework #3 Due
November 17	Homework #4 Due
November 29	Group Project #2 Due
December 1	Final Class
December 8	Final Exam