

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics Syllabus

Fall Semester 2009

General Information

Course: Eco 342
MSF Fine Arts 466
MoWeFr 10:00-10:50AM
3 Credits

Instructor: Malcolm C. Gold, PhD
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Office (715)-384-1709
MSF 437

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 11:30-12:30
and by appointment

Course Overview

This is a survey course exploring the reasons for pollution and natural resource misallocation. We will look at the environment and natural resources from the economic perspective. We will investigate the relationship between ownership structures, externalities and environmental degradation. Microeconomic analysis will be applied to environmental protection and natural resource management with consideration of the equity and efficiency implications of public policy. We will analyze environmental and scarcity problems in the areas of sustainable development, population, recyclable resources, forestry, fisheries, and air and water pollution.

Textbooks and Other Resources

Assigned readings are to be completed before the class session. They are assigned for your edification and to provide the necessary background to actively contribute in classroom discussions.

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, 8th ed. by Tom Tietenberg and Lynne Lewis. ISBN 0-321-48571-8 (Required)

[Online Student Resources](#) for textbook. (Recommended)

[Online Student Resources for earlier editions](#) of the textbook. (Recommended)

Attendance

With the exception of the "First Day No Show Policy" attendance is optional but highly recommended. You are responsible for all announcements made during and materials covered in class. If you miss a class, do not ask me to give a private lesson during office hours.

Cell Phones & Laptop Classroom Policy

Use of a cell phone, laptop or other digital device during a quiz or exam is **PROHIBITED**, use of any digital device during a quiz or exam will result in a zero for that specific quiz or exam.

During regular classroom sessions please be courteous when use any digital device. Shut off or set your cell phone to vibrate only. Use a laptop to follow lecture slides or take notes only.

Graded Course Components

Homework and Class Participation: Homework problems will be assigned throughout the semester. No late homework will be accepted. If you miss a class you are responsible for finding out if homework has been assigned. Problem solving is the best way to learn economic concepts and will be a major component of your exams.

Quizzes: There will be unscheduled quizzes given during the semester. The quizzes will be given at the beginning of class with a fixed time allotment. No make-up quizzes will be offered. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Class Research Project: We will be conducting a research project/service learning project as a class. The research topic will be determined by the class and available opportunities in the community. Grades will depend on regular involvement and participation with the project; including but not limited to the project planning, data analysis and measurement, paper writing, and volunteering.

Exams: You will have three exams, consisting of a combination of problem types. The first two exams will be a combination of an exam during class as well as a take home portion. The take home portion of the exam will be handed out on the day of the exam and is due by the beginning of the next class period. The final exam will take place during the scheduled final exam time.

First Exam	Monday October 12 th , 2009	(In Class)
Second Exam	Monday November 16 th , 2009	(In Class)

Extra Credit: If you wish to earn extra credit you may present content of your choice to the class and lead a discussion on the topic. Talk with me to set up a time and choice of topic to make the classroom presentation. After a time is set you will distribute appropriate papers or chapter to the class prior to the presentation in order to facilitate a better discussion. You may earn as much as 5 percent additional credit depending on your presentation and discussion.

Percent of Total Grade by Component

Homework and Class Participation	10%
Quizzes	5%
Class Research Project	15%
Exams (Midterms at 20%, Final at 30%)	70%

Grading Scale

	A	93-100	A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62
F	less than 60				

Tentative Schedule of Topics: Changes will be announced in class

Valuing the Environment: Concept & Methods
Property Rights, Externalities, and Environmental Problems
Sustainable Development
The Population Problem
Allocation of Depletable and Renewable Resources
Recyclable Resources
Forestry and Fisheries
~~Depletable, Nonrecyclable Energy Resources~~
Economics of Pollution Control
Stationary-Source Local Air Pollution
Water Pollution

The Learning Center

Students with special learning needs, please let me know as soon as possible to ensure that those accommodations are met in a timely manner. Make sure to talk with Steve Kaiser in The Learning Center as I take his recommendations as a prerequisite to giving special accommodations on exams and quizzes.

Assessment Information

A UW Colleges-wide assessment program has been put into place to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the curriculum, programs and services of the institution. The following areas of proficiency will be assessed because they are of primary importance in the education of our students: Analytical Skills, Quantitative Skills, Communication Skills, and the Aesthetic Engagement. The Business and Economics Department has also determined a number of core proficiencies for students enrolled in departmental classes. For more information on these, please contact the instructor.

Students in ECO 342 will not be formally assessed in any area of proficiency.

Grade Appeal Policy

See page 36 of the [UW Colleges Catalog](#).

Academic Misconduct

The Board of Regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff, and students of the University of Wisconsin System believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the University of Wisconsin System. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors.

Please familiarize yourself with the codes and guidelines for academic misconduct, found in UWS 14 of the "[Student Rights & Regulations](#)" handbook. A useful write-up and dissemination of Chapter 14 verbiage can be found at the following [link](#).