

Economics of Environmental Issues (EC 332U – 004)

Fall 2019

Location: Online via D2L, Course Availability: Sep 30, 2019- Dec 14, 2019

Time Zone: Pacific Standard Time (PST)

Instructor: Dr. Sudeshna Pal.

Office Hour: Via email .

Email: sudeshna@pdx.edu (Please do not communicate with me via D2L email)

Teaching Assistant: Aubrey Mange

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Office Hours: M: 2.30-6pm, Tu: 9am-12pm, Th: 11am-1.30pm

Course Objective:

One of the most important issues that is keeping certain scientists, environmentalists, ecologists and economists busy these days is the concern about pollution, climate change and depletion of resources. This course will introduce you to different aspects of environmental issues and the role of economics in aiding policy makers in making the right choices addressing these issues. At the end of the course students will be aware of current environmental problems and develop skills to apply analytical methods and economic reasoning for policy recommendations.

Resources:

1. **Required Textbook: *Markets and the Environment***, 2nd edition, Nathaniel O. Keohane and Sheila M. Olmstead.
2. *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*, 10th edition, Tom Tietenberg and Lynnes Lewis. Buying this book is optional. Copies of relevant chapters from the ninth edition will be available on D2L.
3. *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss.
4. Any Principles of Economics textbook.
5. Additional Readings and Videos or Links to videos posted on D2L.

Other Required Readings/Resources:

1. The Economist, Newspaper articles, Online Sources for current news on Environmental Policies.
2. Khan Academy and Paul Solman Videos: Short videos on core economic concepts and analytical methods.
3. www.epa.gov

Class Homepage: You must have access to D2L.

The Class Homepage is the primary means of communication and location of all course resources.

Please browse through the homepage and get acquainted with everything it has to offer.

Below is a list of resources available on D2L.

1. Announcement related to the course
2. Instructor information
3. Activities and Course Content – Syllabus and learning modules for each week. Each module contains lecture slides, audio lectures, and links to quizzes and problem sets
4. Course Calendar (this would help you keep track of important dates)
5. Link to Library Resources
6. Link to Disability Resource Center

Course Activities:

1. Quizzes (45% of total grade, each quiz accounting for 5%):

A weekly Quiz (week 1 – week 9) for each module will open up every Friday (early morning) and is due the following Sunday (of that week) at 11.59pm. You will take these quizzes on D2L. There are a total of 9 quizzes.

Quizzes are timed and you may get up to two attempts for each quiz. Each quiz would be timed at 30-45min. and consist of multiple-choice questions from the corresponding module. The quizzes will be automatically graded.

2. Problem Sets (55% of total grade, each assignment counting for 27.5% of total grade):

Two problem sets are given on D2L as word/pdf files. You would need to download these files, type in your answers and upload your answers as MSWord/pdf file in the Assignments folder/link provided on D2L.

Problem Set 1 will cover materials from Weeks 1-5 and Problem Set 2 will cover materials from Weeks 6-10.

Please start working on the problem sets as soon as you can and do not wait for last minute submission. Carefully follow all the instructions that would be posted on the class website regarding quiz and assignment submissions.

Due Dates for both Quizzes and Problem Sets are non-negotiable. I will not accept any late quiz or assignment, so please plan your term accordingly.

I expect you to work independently on the Problem Sets as well as the Quizzes. If I find evidences of plagiarism or cheating, the quiz and/or the problem set will NOT be considered for grading, and you will end up with a zero on that quiz or problem set.

Make Up Policy:

I do not offer make-ups for quizzes or missed deadline for problem set submission.

Grading Policy:

Letter grades will be assigned ONLY at the end of the semester after the Final Exam according to the following scale:

90 – 100%: A; 85-89.9%: B+, 80-84.9%: B, 75-79.9%: B- ; 70 – 74.9%: C+, 65 – 69.9%: C,

60 – 64.9%: C-; 55 – 59.9%: D, 54.9% or below: F.

Final Grade Calculation:

Below is an example of how you would calculate your final percentage in the course.

Example: Student X gets the following scores in 8 Quizzes and 2 Problem Sets

What is Student X's final percentage in the course? What letter grade does she earn?

Final percentage=

$(0.9+0.8+0.75+0.8+0.9+0.75+0.8+0.8+0.75) *5+(0.88+0.8) *27.5=82.4\%$. Letter grade = B

Portland State University Policies:

- Portland State University supports equal opportunity for all, regardless of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, sexual or gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other basis in law.
- Students with accommodations approved through the Disability Resource Center are responsible for contacting me prior to, or during, the first week of term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval should contact the DRC immediately.

Tentative Course Calendar:

Week # Start Date	Topics	Chapters/Readings	Quizzes/Problem Sets
Week 1: Sep 30	Introduction and Economic Concepts and Principles,	Economic Principles and Demand Supply (D2L)	Quiz 1 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 2: Oct 7	Economic Concepts contd., Demand-Supply		Quiz 2 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 3: Oct 14	Introduction to Economics of Environmental Issues, Cost-Benefit	Smith Chap1 (D2L), K&O Chap 1, 2,3, Articles 1 and 2 (D2L)	Quiz 3 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 4: Oct 21	Externalities, Market failures and Remedies,	K&O Chap 4,5, 8 T&L p36 onwards, other readings posted	Quiz 4 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 5: Oct 28	Market and non-market based instruments	K&O Chap 8, 9 (till p127), T&L Chap 14 (selected portions)	Quiz 5 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 6: Nov 4**	Natural Resource Economics, Resource Taxonomy, Non-renewable and Recyclable resource management	K&O Chap 6, T&L Chapters posted on D2L	Quiz 6 due on Sunday, 11.59pm **Problem Set 1 due on Friday, Nov. 8, by 11.59pm
Week 7: Nov 12 (Nov 11: Veterans' Day Holiday)	Natural Resource Economics Water, Land, Forests, Fisheries (contd.)	T&L Chap 9, 10, 11, 12 –selected portions only Articles on Water, Land, Forests, Fisheries (D2L)	Quiz 7 on Sunday, 11.59pm

Week 8: Nov 18	Environment and Economic Growth – Sustainability	K&O Chap 11 Sustainability (D2L)	Quiz 8 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 9: Nov 25	Global Environmental Issues	Field and Field (chap 18, 19) (D2L)	Quiz 9 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 10**: Dec 2	Conclusion: Updates on Global Climate Change	Links posted on D2L.	**Problem Set 2 due by Friday Dec 6, 11.59pm.

Weekly quizzes are due on Sundays of each week, 11.59pm, PST. Please check due dates on D2L.

Note: I reserve the right to make any necessary changes to the syllabus. You will be informed of any such changes and a revised syllabus will be uploaded on D2L.