

Bergen Community College
Division of Business, Arts, & Social Sciences
Department of Social Sciences

Departmental Syllabus

ECO-110 Environmental Economics

Date of Most Recent Syllabus Revision: Spring 2023

Course Typically Offered: Fall ___ Spring ___ Summer ___ Every Semester _X_ Other _____

Syllabus last reviewed by: BCC General Education Committee _____ Date: _____

(Most courses need review Ad Hoc Committee on Learning Assessment _____ Date: _____

by only one of the following) Curriculum Committee: _____ Date: _____

Semester and Year: Fall 2023
Course and Section Number: ECO-1XX-001
Meeting Times and Locations: TBD

Instructor:
Office Location: A-306B
Phone: 201-493-3608
Departmental/Division Secretary:
Office Hours:
Email Address:

Course Description

This course is an introduction to contemporary problems of environmental quality. Topics include economic analysis of the institutions and practices leading to pollution of air, water, and land resources; analysis of incentives that lead to environmental degradation; the valuation of environmental quality; and the design and evaluation of regulations that seek to improve environmental quality including issues associated with global climate change.

Credits: 3 (lecture)

Prerequisites: None
Co-requisites: None
General Education Course: Yes
Diversity Course: No

Student Learning Objectives & Means of Assessment

Objectives: Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:	Means of Assessment: This outcome will be measured by one or more of the following:
1) Apply an environmental economics perspective to environmental problems	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, class discussions, and writing assignments
2) Develop a simple analytical model of the economy in relation to the natural environment	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, class discussions, and writing assignments
3) Demonstrate the implications of external costs and external benefits as well as the unique attributes of environmental problems	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, class discussions, and writing assignments
4) Create and explain graphs of the standard pollution control model using marginal damages and marginal abatement costs	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, class discussions, and writing assignments
5) Evaluate different types of environmental policies including decentralized, centralized, incentive-based and market-based policies	Objective tests, essay questions, oral presentations, class discussions, and writing assignments

Course Texts and/or Other Study Materials

<p>Textbook:</p> <p>Field, Barry C., and Field, Martha K. <i>Environmental Economics: An Introduction</i> (Eight Edition). McGraw Hill, 2021.</p> <p>ISBN: 9781260993172</p> <p>Available in print and digital formats</p> <p><i>Supplemental materials including but not limited to readings, films, print or online sources to be determined at the discretion of the instructor.</i></p>
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Course Content

The recommended sequence of theme and topics outlined below represents a general guideline. Instructors should feel free to modify this to suit their pedagogical approach and academic expertise.

- 1) Introduction
 - a) What is Environmental Economics?
 - b) The Economy and the Environment
- 2) Analytical Tools
 - a) Benefits and Costs, Supply and Demand
 - b) Markets, Externalities, and Public Goods
 - c) The Economics of Environmental Quality
- 3) Environmental Analysis
 - a) Frameworks of Analysis
 - b) Benefit-Cost Analysis: Benefits
 - c) Benefit-Cost Analysis: Costs
- 4) Environmental Policy Analysis
 - a) Criteria for Evaluating Environmental Policies
 - b) Decentralized Policies: Liability Laws, Property Rights, Voluntary Action
 - c) Command-and-Control Strategies: The Case of Standards
 - d) Incentive-Based Strategies: Environmental Charges and Subsidies
 - e) Incentive-Based Strategies: Market Trading Systems
- 5) Environmental Policy in the United States
 - a) Federal Water Pollution Control Policy
 - b) Federal Air Pollution Control Policy
 - c) Federal Policy on Toxic and Hazardous Substances
 - d) State and Local Environmental Issues
- 6) Global Environmental Issues
 - a) Global Climate Change
 - b) International Environmental Agreements
 - c) Globalization
 - d) Economic Development and the Environment

Research, Thinking, Writing, and/or Examination Requirement(s)

Writing Activity:

Students in this course will be expected to engage in multiple written assignment. These may be essay questions on one or more tests, an essay test, or several short reflection reports based on outside readings or activities.

Critical Thinking:

Students would be encouraged, through classroom activities, to think about, analyze, and apply basic tools of environmental economics to current event issues. Memorization of key concepts and theories should be thought of as the first, not the final, stage of learning significant course materials.

Student Evaluation:

Student grades will be based on a variety of different assessment measures such as writing assignments, objective tests and quizzes, and larger projects or research papers. The incorporation of at least one oral presentation is encouraged.

Attendance Policy

BCC Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

Attendance Policy in this Course:

Attendance policies are to be determined by the instructor.

Student and Faculty Support Services

Students: Portal Access & Moodle		https://bergen.edu/portalhelp/access-moodle/ or email citl@bergen.edu or helpdesk@bergen.edu
IT Help Desk		201-879-7109
Cerullo Learning Assistance Center Writing Center Tutoring Center	Room L-125	201-447-7489 https://bergen.edu/tutoring/tutoring-center/ https://bergen.edu/tutoring/writing-center/
The Sidney Silverman Library	Room L-226	201-447-7436 (Reference Desk) 201-879-7970 (Service Desk) https://bergen.edu/library/

Other College, Divisional, and/or Departmental Policy Statements

Accommodations for Disabilities:

Bergen Community College aims to create inclusive learning environments where all students have maximum opportunities for success. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Specialized Services at 201-612-5269 or via email at ossinfo@bergen.edu for assistance.

Statement on Mental Health and Wellbeing:

Mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. Bergen Community College has licensed Personal Counselors available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the confidential mental health services available on campus via the Health and Wellness Center at www.bergen.edu/personalcounseling

Sample Course Outline and Calendar (subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Week	Topics & Readings	Assignments
1	Chapter 1: What is Environmental Economics? Chapter 2: The Economy and the Environment	
2	Chapter 3: Benefits and Costs, Supply & Demand Chapter 4: Markets, Externalities, and Public Goods	Lecture Quiz
3	Chapter 5: The Economics of Environmental Quality	FIRST SHORT EXAMINATION
4	Chapter 6: Frameworks of Analysis Chapter 7: Benefit-Cost Analysis: Benefits	Lecture Quiz
5	Chapter 8: Benefit-Cost Analysis: Costs	
6	Chapter 9: Criteria for Evaluating Environmental Policies	SECOND SHORT EXAMINATION
7	Chapter 10: Decentralized Policies: Liability Laws, Property Rights, Voluntary Action Chapter 11: Command-and-Control Strategies: The Case of Standards	Lecture Quiz
8	Chapter 12: Incentive-Based Strategies: Environmental Charges and Subsidies Chapter 13: Incentive-Based Strategies: Market Trading Systems	THIRD SHORT EXAMINATION
9	Chapter 14: Federal Water Pollution Control Policy	
10	Chapter 15: Federal Air Pollution Control Policy	Lecture Quiz
11	Chapter 16: Federal Policy on Toxic and Hazardous Substances	
12	Chapter 17: State and Local Environmental Issues	FOURTH SHORT EXAMINATION
13	Chapter 18: Global Climate Change Chapter 19: International Environmental Agreements	
14	Chapter 20: Globalization	Lecture Quiz

15	Chapter 21: Economic Development and the Environment	FINAL EXAMINATION
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