

Economics of Environmental Issues (EC 332U – 004) Fall 2023

Portland State University Department of Economics

Location: Online via CANVAS, Course Availability: Sep.25, 2023- Dec 9, 2023 (10 weeks)

Instructor: Dr. Sudeshna Pal

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

Office hour: Please email me. I will respond in 24-48hrs.

Teaching Assistant: Trang Nguyen

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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, 2 nd edition, Nathaniel O. Keohane and Sheila M. Olmstead.
2. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, 10 th edition, Tom Tietenberg and Lynnes Lewis. Buying this book is optional. Copies of relevant chapters from the ninth edition will be available on CANVAS.
3. Additional Readings posted on CANVAS

Class Homepage:

You must have access to CANVAS.

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 CANVAS.

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)

Course Activities:

Quizzes and Problem Sets

A weekly Quiz is due at the end of each week's lessons.

Quizzes are timed and you may get up to two attempts for each quiz. Quizzes would take about 30-45 minutes. Two problem sets are given, Problem Set 1 is due at the end of week 6, and Problem Set 2 is due at the end of week 10. **Please start working on the problem sets as soon as you can and do not wait for last minute submission.**

More information is provided below.

- Problem Sets (50% of total grade, each assignment counting for 25% of total grade):
TWO Problem Sets will be available on CANVAS word/pdf files. You would need to submit these as MSWord/pdf file and upload in the Assignments folder/link provided on CANVAS by the due date.
Problem Set 1 will cover materials from the Weeks 1-5 and Problem Set 2 will cover materials from Weeks 6-10.
- **Quizzes (50% of total grade, each quiz accounting for 6.25%):** I will give eight weekly quizzes based on the week's lectures and readings. Please refer to the course schedule for Quiz dates. These will be multiple-choice questions available on CANVAS. You will get up to two attempts for each quiz and require finishing it within a pre-determined time frame. The quizzes will be automatically graded.

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 evidence 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 # and Start Date	Topics	Chapters/Readings	Quizzes/Problem Sets
Week 1: Sep 25	Introduction and Economic Concepts and Principles	Economic Principles and Demand Supply (CANVAS)	Quiz 1 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 2: Oct 2	Economic Concepts contd., Demand-Supply	Economic Principles and Demand Supply (CANVAS)	Quiz 2 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 3: Oct 9	Introduction to Economics of Environmental Issues, Cost-Benefit	Smith Chap1 (CANVAS), K&O Chap 1, 2,3, Articles 1 and 2 (CANVAS)	Quiz 3 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 4: Oct 16	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 23	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 # and Start Date	Topics	Chapters/Readings	Quizzes/Problem Sets
Week 6: October 30**	Natural Resource Economics, Resource Taxonomy, Non-renewable and Recyclable resource management	K&O Chap 6, T&L Chapters posted on CANVAS	Quiz 6 due on Sunday, 11.59pm **Problem Set 1 due on Friday, November 3, by 11.59pm
Week 7: Nov 6	Natural Resource Economics Water, Land, Forests, Fisheries (continued.)	T&L Chap 9, 10, 11, 12 –selected portions only Articles on Water, Land Forests, Fisheries (CANVAS)	Quiz 7 on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 8: Nov 13	Environment and Economic Growth – Sustainability	K&O Chap 11 Sustainability (CANVAS)	Quiz 8 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 9: Nov 20	Global Environmental Issues	Field and Field (chap 18, 19) (CANVAS)	Quiz 9 due on Sunday, 11.59pm
Week 10**: Nov 27	Conclusion: Updates on Global Climate Change	Links posted on CANVAS.	**Problem Set 2 due by Friday Dec 1, 11.59pm.

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

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 CANVAS.