AREC 352/ECON 352: Environmental Economics and Policy (3 Credits)
Course Syllabus

Instructor: TBA
Teaching Assistant: TBA

1. Course Catalog Description:
This course provides an overview of the interrelationships between economic activity, the environment, and public policy. Through case studies, discussion groups, readings, and group activities, students learn how economists define and analyze environmental problems and the types of policies they advocate for managing environmental quality.

Prerequisites: AREC 250 or ECON 201 or ECON 201H (Bacc Core Course)

2. Course Content
The table on p. 4 of this syllabus outlines the topics and activities for the course.

3. Course Credit and Hours
This 3 credit course meets 3 hours a week for lecture and in-class activities. Students are expected to complete readings, online discussion, and group project(s) outside of class. (Ecampus: This course combines approximately 30 hours of online instruction, student interaction and learning with approximately 60 hours of individual work offline.)

4. Student Learning Outcomes for the Course
Learning outcomes for those enrolled in this course will be measured by performance on practice problems, exams, and projects and by the quality of questions and comments posted to the Blackboard discussion forum. Upon course completion, participants are expected to be able to:
   1. Describe the contemporary environmental issues and policies covered in the course.
   2. Explain the economic causes of environmental problems.
   3. Describe and compare the research methods economists use to analyze environmental issues that were covered in class.
   4. Compare and contrast the merits and drawbacks of environmental policies from a variety of perspectives.
Successful completion of this course partially fulfills OSU’s Baccalaureate Core course requirements in the Synthesis category under Contemporary Global Issues. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Analyze the origins, historical contexts, and implications of contemporary global issues.
2. Explain the complex nature and interdependence of contemporary global issues using a multi-disciplinary approach.
3. Articulate in writing a critical perspective on contemporary global issues using evidence as support.

5. Learning Resources
This course is delivered via Blackboard. The course Blackboard site contains most of the course materials: the syllabus, narrated lectures, handouts, additional readings, practice problems, group project assignments, and exams. The course Blackboard site is also where course participants will submit assignments, display the outputs of group projects, and communicate with other course participants.

Reading Material: The required text for the course is: *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, 9th Edition*. Tom Tietenberg and Lynne Lewis. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 2011. In addition, assigned readings from newspapers and other sources are posted to Blackboard.

For technical support or problems with Blackboard, please contact the OSU extended campus (ecampus@oregonstate.edu, 800-667-1465, or 541-737-9204). Questions specific to this course that concern course content can be posted on the “Student Q and A” Forum (Discussion Board) on the course OSU Blackboard site, which is monitored by the TA for this course. Questions that concern grades or other personal issues should be emailed directly to the course instructor (monica.fisher@oregonstate.edu) or the course TA (holderd@onid.orst.edu).

6. Evaluation of Student Performance
The following scale will be used in assigning final grades: 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=below 60%. The course instructor reserves the right to adjust/curve the final grades upward if this is deemed necessary.

Grading is based on the following elements: Web Discussion Board (15%), Group Assignments (30%), Exam 1 (25%), and Exam 2 (30%).

Web Discussion Board: On the Blackboard site there is a discussion board link. We will submit 5 discussion forums and monitor the site for content and participation. To receive full participation credit you must submit relevant and significant contributions by 5pm on Friday of the week for which the Discussion Board was assigned. Late entries are welcome, but will not count toward your grade.
**Group Assignments** are posted to the course Blackboard site and include (a) analyze survey data and write a report concerning the demand for a proposed environmental project (20%) and (b) write a short essay to summarize and critique an environmental issues film (10%). For **Group Assignments**, students will organize themselves into small groups (five people maximum) on the course Blackboard site. Students are expected to coordinate among themselves the process of equitably contributing to and jointly completing the assignments. If some group member(s) are not contributing to a Group Assignment, students should let the Instructor know.

**Exams** will involve a mixture of definitions, concepts, graphical analysis, and mathematical problems. Questions will draw from lectures, practice problems, and assigned readings. The Final Exam will not be comprehensive. To help you prepare for the exams, the course TA will hold review sessions on the Blackboard discussion board. Both exams will be proctored. It is recommended that students sign up for proctoring **at least two weeks prior** to the exam, especially for on-campus proctoring sessions.

There will be six **Practice Problem Sets** during the term. Practice Problems are not turned in and are not graded, but are important nonetheless, because they will allow you to practice applying material covered in class and help you prepare for exams.

**7. Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:**
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

**8. Expectations for Student Conduct:**
Participants are expected to conduct themselves in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Disrespectful behavior to others (e.g., harassment, personal insults, inappropriate language) is unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Oregon Administrative Rules [Division 015 Student Conduct Regulations](http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/regulations/index.php).
## 8. Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Handouts</th>
<th>Discussion Boards, Group Assignments, &amp; Practice Problems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1   | • Static Efficiency, part 1  
• Static Efficiency, part 2  
• Static Efficiency, part 3 | • Tietenberg & Lewis, Ch. 1  
• Tietenberg & Lewis, pp. 12-22 of Ch. 2 | PP #1 (for practice only, does not need to be turned in) |
| Week 2   | • Benefit-Cost Analysis, part 1  
• Benefit-Cost Analysis, part 2 | • Tietenberg & Lewis, pp. 46-59 and 62-66 of Ch. 3  
• Additional Reading: An Overview of Benefit-Cost Analysis  
• Handout: Net Present Value | PP #2 (for practice only)  
• DB #1 due Friday of Week 2 at 5pm |
| Week 3   | • Travel Cost Method  
• Contingent Valuation Method | • Tietenberg & Lewis, pp. 74-91 of Ch. 4 | DB #2 due Friday of Week 3 at 5pm  
• GA #1 assigned (due Friday of Week 7 at 5pm) |
| Week 4   | • Market Efficiency and Market Failure  
• Common Pool Resources, part 1 | • Tietenberg & Lewis, pp.22-31 and 38-43 of Ch. 2 | PP #3 (for practice only) |
| Week 5   | • Common Pool Resources, part 2  
• Public Goods | • Handout: Investment survey | DB #3 due Friday of Week 5 at 5pm |
| Week 6   | • Midterm Exam (no lecture or assignments) | | |
| Week 7   | • Air Pollution Overview, part 1  
(Only one lecture this week due to GA#1 being due) | • Tietenberg & Lewis, pp. 31-33 of Ch. 2  
• Tietenberg & Lewis, pp. 359-368 of Ch. 14  
• Tietenberg & Lewis, pp. 397-408 of Ch. 15 | GA#1 due Friday of Week 7 at 5pm  
• GA #2 assigned (due Friday of Week 9 at 5pm) |
| Week 8   | • Air Pollution Overview, part 2  
• Regional Air Pollution & Policy, part 1 | • Tietenberg & Lewis, pp. 368-375 of Ch. 14  
• Tietenberg & Lewis, pp. 411-418 of Ch. 15 | DB #4 due Friday of Week 8 at 5pm  
• PP #4 (for practice only) |
| Week 9   | • Regional Air Pollution & Policy, part 2  
• Global Air Pollution & Policy, part 1 | • Tietenberg & Lewis, Ch. 16 | GA #2 due Friday of Week 9 at 5pm  
• PP #5 (for practice only) |
| Week 10  | • Global Air Pollution & Policy, part 2  
(Only one lecture this week due to the upcoming final exam) | | DB #5 due Friday of Week 10 at 5pm  
• PP #6 (for practice only) |