

Economics 377(L01) Economics and the Environment

Instructor:	Oscar Zapata	Lecture Location:	ES 054
Phone:	403-483-4938	Lecture Days/Time:	MW 12:00 – 14:45
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Office:	SS 434		
Office Hours:	MW 11:00 – 11:50	Spring 2017	

Course Description: This course presents an introduction to the analysis of environmental problems from an economic perspective. The emphasis of this course will be on the economic analysis to understand the causes of environmental problems and on market mechanisms designed to ameliorate environmental conditions in society.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the principles of economics that apply to the understanding of the causes of environmental problems and to the design of solutions to these problems based on economic or market incentives. After taking this course students will be able to:

- Identify market failures as the main cause of environmental problems from an economic perspective.
- Understand that most environmental goods and services correspond to the category of public goods and common-pool resources.
- Explain the economic methods for the monetary valuation of environmental costs and benefits.
- Describe how economic instruments, such as environmental taxes and pollution tradable permits, are adopted to solve environmental problems.
- Explain how economic principles are applied to understand environmental problems related to water resources, air, waste, forests and biodiversity, and climate change.

Prerequisites/co-requisites: Economics 201 and 203

Required Textbook:

Tom Tietenberg, Tom, Elizabeth Wilman and Peter Tracey. 2009. Environmental Economics and Policy. Addison Wesley, Canadian edition (Pearson).

Recommended Textbook(s)

Hanley, Nick, Jason Shogren and Ben. White. 2013. Introduction to Environmental Economics, 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press.

Book(s) on Reserve: None.

Course content:

The course will tentatively cover the following topics:

- Markets and the environment
- Property rights, market failures, externalities and public goods
- Economic valuation of environmental goods and natural resources
- Growth, the environment and sustainable development
- Decision-making under risk and strategic interactions and the environment
- Economic instruments for environmental policy: standards, taxes and tradable permits
- Application of economic instruments to environmental problems: air, water, waste, forestry and biodiversity.
- The economics of climate change.

At the instructor's discretion, more/less time might be spent on certain topics, depending on time availability. Any changes will be announced in class.

Course Requirements/Assessments:

There are two in-class midterms and a final exam as requirements of the course.

The structure of the final grade for this course is as follows:

Requirement	Percentage of final grade	Date
Midterm 1	30%	May 31
Midterm 2	30%	June 14
Final exam	30%	TBA
Class activities and assignments	10%	On going

The two midterms will be comprehensive, in-class, closed book and notes.

Desire2Learn: This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details

Department of Economics Criteria for Letter Grades. Economics professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding	C+	2.30	
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter	C	2.00	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70		C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)
B+	3.30		D+	1.00	
B	3.00	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	D	1.00	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
B-	2.70		F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements
			I	0	Incomplete – unsatisfactory (effective January 2007)

Grading Scale

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	F	0 – 49

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, held in a classroom, lasting 2 hours.

Tests and exams may involve multiple choice questions.

Non-programmable calculators WILL be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations. The use of graphing calculators, computers, and cell phones are not permitted.

Reappraisal of Grades

For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar I.2
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities Visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

Absence from a Quiz/Test/Exam

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the department.

Important Dates

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:

Alicia Lunz

Phone: 403-220-3911

E-mail suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts)

Phone: 403-220-3913 Office: MSC 251

E-mail arts1@su.ucalgary.ca arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Society of Undergraduates in Economics

www.ucalgarysue.com

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580 or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support>

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/home/evacuation-assembly-points>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course

Safewalk

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333