

## Economics 377(L01) (Economics and the Environment)

|               |  |                    |                 |
|---------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Instructor:   | L. Vojtassak                                       | Lecture Location:  | ST 139          |
| Phone:        | 403 220 6550                                       | Lecture Days/Time: | MWF 9:00 – 9:50 |
| Email:        | lvojtass@ucalgary.ca                               |                    |                 |
| Office:       | SS 336   |                    |                 |
| Office Hours: | M 15:00 – 15:50<br>R 9:00 – 9:50 or by appointment |                    | Winter 2019     |

### Course Description:

This course examines the links between economic activity and environmental degradation. Topics include the valuation of environmental amenities, the use of incentives in regulation, the economics and environmental effects of market failure and the rationale for government intervention.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

The goals of this course are: (a) gaining a general knowledge of the various environmental problems that confront modern societies; (b) developing an understanding of the specific economics perspective on these problems; (c) becoming familiar with the main methods used in economics to measure costs and benefits of environmental protection; (d) becoming familiar with the main policy tools normally used to address environmental problems. More generally, the course will allow students to explore real-world applications of some of the microeconomic tools acquired in previous courses.

### Course Outline:

Course material will follow a sequence similar to that of the textbook. However, students are encouraged to read the appropriate chapters in the supplementary textbooks and articles to benefit from additional explanations and examples.

- I Vision of the Future
- II Basic Concepts: Valuing the Environment: Concepts, Valuing the Environment: Methods, Property Rights, Externalities & Environmental Problems, Sustainable Development: Defining the Concept
- III Overview of Environmental Economics
- IV Air Pollution: Stationary-Source: Local and Regional Air Pollution, Mobile Source Air Pollution
- V Water and Water Pollution
- VI Waste
- VII Biodiversity: Forest Habitat, Commercially Valuable Species
- VIII Vision of the Future Revisited

**Prerequisites/corequisites:**

Economics 201 and 203.

**Required Textbook(s):**

*Required*

Field and Olewiler, *Environmental Economics*, 4th Canadian edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

**Books on Reserve:**

Field and Olewiler, *Environmental Economics*, 4th Canadian edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Tietenberg, Tom, Elizabeth Wilman, and Peter Tracey, *Environmental Economics and Policy*, Canadian Edition, Pearson 2009.

Tietenberg, *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*, 10th edition, Pearson.

Nordhaus, *The Climate Casino*, Yale University Press, 2013.

**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. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

|                        |             |   |
|------------------------|-------------|---|
| Midterm Examination    | 20%         | February 15 2019 in class                               |
| Individual Assignments | 15%         | Due date: February 11, 2019, at the beginning of class! |
| Group Project          | 20%         | Due date: April 5, 2019, at the beginning of class!     |
| Final Examination      | 45%         |   |
|                        | <b>100%</b> |   |

**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.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during his office hours.

**Assignment and Project**

1. Assignment and Project are to be submitted at the beginning of class on the date due. In exceptional cases, they may be handed in before that date to the instructor personally. Answers to assignment will be either discussed in class shortly after assignment falls due or posted on the D2L. For this reason, late assignment will be given a score of zero, although you may still wish to have the work corrected and returned without a score being recorded. Please do not slide assignment under my office door – they will not be marked. Please also do not email assignment to me – they will not be marked.
2. Assignment is individual. Students are encouraged to discuss the assignments with their classmates, but each must write up their own answers. Copying or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own is a serious offence, which will not be tolerated. Your attention is directed to the "Statement of Intellectual Honesty" in the 2018-2019 Calendar. Taking credit for someone else's work is something for which I show zero tolerance.
3. Project is a group project with minimum of two and maximum of 4 people. All group member will get the same grade for this assignment.

**Examinations:**

1. Exams will not consist of the multiple-choice questions.
2. The midterm examinations will be held in classroom during regular lecture hours and will last 50 minutes.
3. There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 2 hours. It will be a comprehensive examination of all-material covered in the course.
4. The exams must be completed during the specified time. Extra time will not be given for any reason.
5. All examinations will be closed-book.
6. Answers to the midterm test, the assignment and the final exam questions must make use of equations and diagrams wherever possible. Problem-solving questions require analytical answers.
7. THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the exams be written early. Students unable to write the midterm exam 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final) Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the department. Any student who finds it necessary to miss the midterm must notify the instructor in advance and produce a valid medical certificate or other required documentation in order to have the weighting adjusted. This adjustment will result in the final exam counting for 65% of the final grade and the assignments with other test counting for 35% of the final grade.
8. Examinations will not be given before the indicated examination date. For further information see the 2018-2019 Calendar.
9. The use of a simple calculator during test and examination is permitted. The use of graphing calculators, cell phones, and computers is not permitted.

**Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:**

*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>

*Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty, see Calendar K.4*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

*Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, , see Calendar K.5*

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

**Academic Accommodations:**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

**Important Dates:**

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

**Student Organizations:**

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

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: [econrep@fasaucalgary.ca](mailto:econrep@fasaucalgary.ca) and Web: [www.fasaucalgary.ca](http://www.fasaucalgary.ca).

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:

<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at [societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com](mailto:societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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 assembly point for this classroom is the Professional Faculties Food Court.

**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.**

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:**

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

**Internet and Electronic Communication Device information:**

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note-taking only.

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