

Environmental and Natural Resource Policy

Economics 467

Department of Economics, University of Alberta

Instructor: Dana Andersen
Time and Location: Tues, Thurs; 12:30-1:50 pm; HC 2-12
Contact: dca@ualberta.ca
Office Hours: by appointment (zoom or in-person)

Overview and Objectives

This course provides examples of environmental and resource problems, such as pollution externalities and common-pool resources, and examines public policies to mitigate these problems. Topics will include market failures, policy instruments in various contexts, cost-benefit analysis, climate-change economics, and international environmental agreements.

Prerequisites

MATH 113 or SCI 100, or ECON 281. Not open to students with credit in ECON 466 or ENCS 473. Instructor may consent to allow alternative prerequisites or co-requisites. Unless given permission from the instructor, course prerequisites will be enforced and registration cancelled if the prerequisites are not met.

Evaluation

Students are responsible for all material covered in the lectures, as well as required readings. The relative importance of the various graded components of the course are as follows:

Mid-term exam (March 5, 12:30-1:50 PM)	35%
Final exam (April 9, 12:30-1:50 PM)	35%
Term Paper (Due April 20, anytime)	30%

*Note that the dates are tentative and subject to change.

Term Paper

The term paper should be between 12 and 15 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, excluding references). Students will choose one of the following two options:

1. Analyze an existing environmental or natural resource policy. The paper should include the following elements:
 - Review the relevant theoretical and empirical literature

- Discuss the existing policy or regulation
 - Discuss the economic efficiency of the policy, including potential unintended effects (such as rebound effects, leakage, etc.)
 - Description of potential policy improvements or alternative policies
2. A policy proposal addressing an unabated environmental or resource management problem. The paper should include the following elements:
- Review the relevant theoretical and empirical literature
 - Describe the environmental or resource management problem
 - Propose a specific policy or set of policies to address the problem
 - Discuss the economic efficiency of the policy and issues that might arise in its implementation, such as enforcement, informational requirements, or jurisdictional issues

Possible sources of topics include the newspaper or internet news (for example, www.cbc.ca), your readings, policy think-tanks such as Resources for the Future (www.rff.org), and government websites such as Environment Canada (www.ec.gc.ca) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov).

The paper proposal should be clearly and concisely written, and must be thoroughly edited: spelling and grammar errors are not acceptable. Additional resources are available to students who desire help to improve their writing. The Centre for Writers offers free tutoring to undergraduate and graduate students regarding writing assignments.¹

Students are required to practice proper citation of published and unpublished sources. The term paper should include citations in the text as well as a full list of references (bibliography) following the conclusion of the paper. Students should be aware what constitutes plagiarism, and all papers are subject to verification of originality. Internet searches will be performed on selected passages or phrases from each term paper. References on plagiarism, proper paraphrasing, and proper citation are available on the University Library website.² If evidence is found that the work submitted is not the work of the student, formal University procedures for plagiarism will be initiated. The University Guidelines regarding cheating and plagiarism are included at the end of this syllabus.

Midterm Exam

University policy on missed exams and term work can be found in Section 23.3 of the Calendar. Students who offer a medical justification must submit the Request for Deferral of Examinations and/or Term Work form, available on the Faculty of Arts webpage. Students who miss the midterm for an approved reason will have the midterm weight allocated to the paper and the final exam (40% paper and 60% final).

¹<http://www.c4w.arts.ualberta.ca/>

²<http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/academicintegrity/>

Final Exam

The final exam will be 2 hours in length. The exam will be cumulative with greater weight placed on post-midterm material. Please confirm the final exam date when exam dates are finalized by the University.

Students who miss the final exam must receive faculty (FGSR) permission to defer the exam. Please note, as stated in 23.3(2)c of the Calendar, “A deferred examination will not be approved if a student (a) has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or, (b) excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work.”

Calculation of Final Grades

Students will receive raw scores for each component of the course. Following the final exam, a final percentage will be calculated for each student. Final grades will be assigned based on both absolute and relative performance.

Required Texts

Required textbook:

- Nathaniel O. Keohane and Sheila M. Olmstead. *Markets and the Environment, Second Edition*, 2016.

Supplementary articles will be assignment throughout the semester and available electronically. **Topics and readings are subject to change as the term progresses.** Please check eClass frequently.

Exam Accomodations

If you have a condition that may require classroom or exam modifications, contact Accessibility & Accommodation Services to obtain a determination as to what accommodations should be made. The Academic Success Centre offers a variety of writing and learning resources, including workshops in learning effective study and exam strategies and Peer Tutoring. Other Statements

Other Statements

- Learning and Working Environment: The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.
- Sexual Violence Policy: It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. The University takes seriously its responsibility to reduce sexual and

gender-based violence through a culture of consent, gender inclusivity, anti-oppression and support, and to respond to misconduct or conditions that allow, facilitate, or give rise to sexual and gender-based violence.

- Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).
- Use of AI Tools: To ensure a fair and consistent learning experience for all students, the use of advanced AI tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2 is strictly prohibited for all academic (written/coding/creative/etc.) work, assignments, and assessments in this course. Each student is expected to complete all tasks without substantive assistance from others, including AI tools. Any use of AI tools in your academic work may result in academic penalties and be considered an act of cheating and a violation as outlined in the relevant sections of University of Alberta (Student Academic Integrity Policy).
- Learning Environment: The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to (1) discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or (2) if that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.
- The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Student Academic Integrity Policy and the Student Conduct Policy (on the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online (UAPPOL) website) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.
- Land Acknowledgment: The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.