

# ECO313H1S, Environmental Economics and Policies

Sections L0101/9101, L0201/9201

Winter 2021, Economics Department ,

University of Toronto



**NOTE: ALL POSTED TIMES  
ARE EASTERN TIME  
(LOCAL TORONTO TIME).**



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## Textbook:

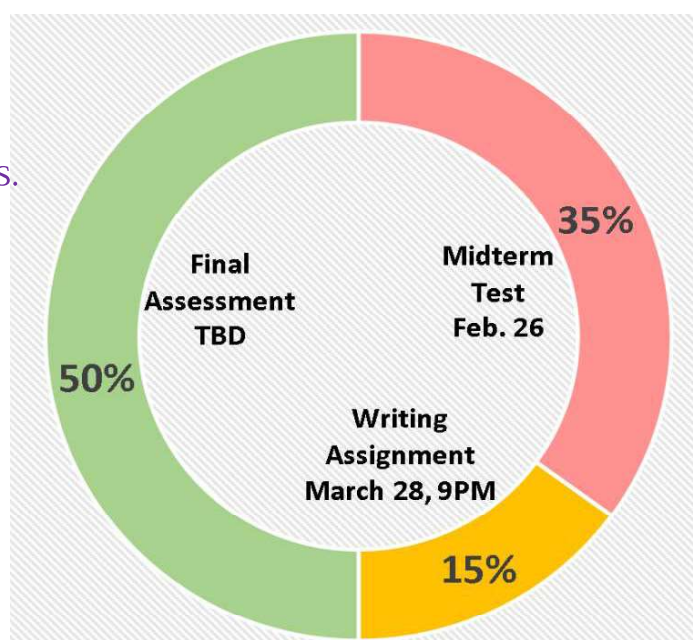
This course is involved with a lot of reading. However, there is no single textbook that can be used for all the materials. The readings will be assigned throughout the semester and will be available through the links to the library materials. There may not be enough time in classes to go over all the details of the reading materials, but students are required to read the materials carefully, and are responsible for everything.

Roger Perman, Yue Ma, Michael Common, David Maddison, James McGilvray (2011), Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, 4th edition, Pearson Publishing.

Field, Barry C. and Nancy D. Olewiler, 2017. Environmental Economics, Forth Canadian Edition. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

## Evaluations/Grading Schemes:

Please see the details in the later pages.



**Course Delivery:** This is a completely online course. The content is organized by weeks as shown in the table on the last page, in terms of the topics. There will be no meeting at a given lecture time, instead, the content will be posted during the week. Each week, you are expected to complete the readings, watch the Videos. There could be changes in the order or nature of the materials, if required.

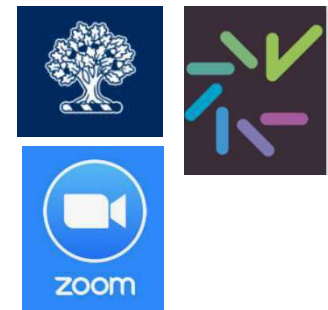


**Technology Requirements:** You must have access to a laptop or desktop computer with a strong and stable internet connection. You need a cell phone for scanning and uploading your test/assessment materials, however, the phone is not an acceptable substitute for the computer, as some required components of the course may not be accessible on smartphones. A camera and microphone are required for online contact activities such as office hours. High speed broadband access (LAN, Cable or DSL) is highly recommended to stream the videos smoothly. Also check:



<https://www.vicprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/covid-19/tech-requirements-online-learning/>

Also, different applications, programs, or platforms will be used for running, invigilating, or grading tests/assessments, also for office hours, discussion board, and other communications. These are including, but not limited to, UofT Quercus, Crowdmark, Zoom, ... So, you should be able to work with these applications and platforms.



**Course Description:** This course demonstrates a rigorous application of microeconomic and some macroeconomic theories in order to model, analyze, and respond to various environmental problems. First, we will look at the interaction between natural and economic systems, and the nature of the environmental deterioration, caused mainly by fast expansion of the level of economic activities. Then, we will seek solutions to these problems in the framework of neoclassical economics, while some alternative critical views will be discussed briefly.



Other topics like the economics of recycling, preserving biodiversity, environmental policies under uncertainty, and optimal extraction of the environmental resources, among others, will be introduced. Case studies and real-world environmental policies will be studies too .

### Prerequisites:

Prerequisites are strictly checked and enforced and must be completed before taking a course. By taking this course you acknowledge that you will be removed from the course at any time, if you do not meet all the requirements set by the Department of Economics. For further information you can consult the Courses Calendar, which is available from the Registrar' s Office. If you have any doubt about the required prerequisite, please let me know to direct you to the right person to check it for you.

### Evaluations/Grading Scheme:

You need to complete online midterm test and final assessment, and a writing assignment, with the weights and schedules as in the table for this course.

#### Winter 2021 Evaluation Schedule

Evaluation	Weight	Date	Time
Midterm Test	35%	February 26	Any 2-hour interval in the 10:00AM - 11:59PM window
Writing Assignment	15%	March 28	9:00PM, sharp
Final Assessment	50%	TBD	

**Midterm Test:** If for any emergency circumstances, acceptable by the university rules, you miss the midterm test, you need to take an online makeup test. In case of missing a test, you should inform me by email within 5 days from the test, with the related reasons and documentations. More likely, I use Crowdmark for the midterm test and final assessments. **If you start (open) any online midterm test or final assessment, you cannot claim missed assessment, so you are not eligible for the makeup test or deferred exam.**



**Makeup Test:** Makeup test will be held for eligible students on **April 8**. The makeup test could be shorter in terms of number of questions and times and may cover more chapters than the actual midterm test. Note that the makeup test is a private test and will **NOT** be returned to you. **If you miss the makeup test, you will receive zero mark, no matter why you miss the test.**



**Writing Assignments:** The topics and details of the writing assignments will be announced later. In suspicious cases, your assignment could be checked by Turnitin. The deadlines for writing assignments will not be extended, so no late deduction is applicable. No excuses like network failure or system interruption ... is acceptable. If you miss the writing assignments, they **cannot** be substituted by anything else.



**Warning Notes:**

- You have plenty of time to finish the writing assignment, but please do not leave it to the last minutes, as many problems including technical problems or medical emergencies may arise. So, no medical or health issues or technical problems are accepted for the writing assignment.



- As far as the midterm test and final assessments concern, the due times are enforced rigorously, according to the **platform reports** about starting and ending times (not based on your or my beliefs about the times). Any work sent after the due times by emails will be ignored, and any late penalties, if applicable, will be applied according to the **platform report**. **Once again**, because, we do not have and cannot apply a precision chronometer for each student test, the calculations of latencies and late penalties are based on the **platform** calculations, not yours or mine.

- This course requires the use of computers and internet connections. You are responsible for ensuring that you maintain regular backup copies of your files, use antivirus software (if using your own computer), and schedule enough time when completing an assignment to allow for delays due to possible technical failures. Computer viruses, crashed hard drives, lost, or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, and similar mishaps are common issues when using technology, and are not acceptable grounds for missing any kind of course assessments.

- All posted times are in Eastern Time, i.e. local Toronto time. If you are in a different time zone, please make sure you correctly identify your time compare to Toronto time. Errors in calculations are not an acceptable reason to miss deadlines.

- Please note that the online assessments must be taken only by you without any outside help, including areful with asynchronous tests. In addition to tutoring services such as Easy 4.0, expect course-specific WeChat groups and possibly "ghostwriters" offering assessment solutions. At the very least, make sure your syllabus is clear that during the testing window, any discussion of course material is forbidden.

## Lectures, Tutorials, and Office Hours:

Lectures and tutorials will be posted in form of prerecorded videos, in Quercus. But the office hours will be held live through the UofT-sanctioned platforms, like Zoom.

The office hours may change during the semester to accommodate students in different time zones. **The instructor and TAs office hours will be posted on Quercus webpage. Please check the Quercus, before stopping by.**



## Notes, Emails, and Quercus Course Website:

**Quercus:** All the course materials like exercises, notes, prerecorded videos, announcements, ... will be posted on the Quercus course website. It is your responsibility to follow up and get the information about the test, makeup test, and other issues.

**Notes:** For your convenience, I will also post course notes on the website. The notes are the written version of the presentations that I go over in videos, but to encourage you to watch the videos, the notes are **NOT** complete. You can complete the notes by watching the videos. The completed versions of the notes are **NOT** available.

**Emails:** You need to send your emails only from your UofT account to instructor's UofT email account. It is preferred **NOT** to use Quercus email.

## Re-grading Appeals:

In order to appeal for re-grading your midterm test, you should submit the Re-grading Request Form (posted on Quercus), by email, within **2 weeks** after returning the grades. After this period, no request is accepted. I may re-grade the entire assessment, so your grade can go either way, up or down, or remain unchanged. The form contains the re-grading rules.



## Other Issues:

- Students are responsible for all the course materials, including examples, graphs, and articles for the tests and assessments.
- There might be some marginal grade adjustments for the final grade of the course at the instructor's discretion, in terms of letter grade. In case of petition for re-grading of the final assessment, the adjustment may be revised for the final mark of the course.

## Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct:

- Students should note that any form of academic misconduct will not be tolerated, as academic integrity is central to an UofT education. Any student caught engaging in misconduct activities will be subject to academic discipline ranging from a mark of zero on a test or examination to dismissal from the university as outlined in the academic handbook. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties.

- Academic integrity is especially relevant for online courses. All graded term works are individual work that must be done by yourself alone. Any collaboration, providing or receiving answers or unauthorized help from someone else or agency in any format on submitted work violate academic integrity. Any tutoring services focused on doing an assessment during the assessment time window is assumed an academic integrity violation.

- Please note that all suspected cases will be reported to the Department of Economics and OSAI. Please consult with the university's Code of Behavior on Academic Matters:

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

Also: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai>

- In order to avoid plagiarism, your assignments might be submitted to Turnitin.com. You can find the details about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, check this link:

<http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources>

- The usual University of Toronto disclaimer on Turnitin.com is applied: “Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. ”

- **Notice of Video Recording and Sharing:** Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.



## Academic Support:

- Students with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you need help achieving academic success in this course, please reach out.

For accessibility services/accommodation, please see: <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>

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- In order to receive helpful information for your essays, you can use the services of several Writing Centers at the University of Toronto. A list of these Writing Centers can be found at

<https://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science/>

For more general advice on academic essay-writing, please refer to:

<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>

For more information, please contact the ELL coordinator

Leora Freedman at [leora.freedman@utoronto.ca](mailto:leora.freedman@utoronto.ca)





## Planned Course Schedule:

Actual order and nature of the materials might be different, if needed

Session	Week	Topics
1 - 2	Jan. 11 - Jan. 24	Sustainability and Limits to Economic Growth: Classical, Neoclassical, and Ecological Views, Measures, and Models.
3	Jan. 25 - Jan. 31	Market Failure and Environment: Externalities and Public Goods.
3-4	Feb. 1 - Feb. 7	The Socially Efficient Levels of Emissions for Flow - Damage Pollutant, Spatial and Intertemporal Analysis of Stock-Damage Pollutant.
4-5	Feb. 8 - Feb. 14	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Varieties of Policy Instruments, Institutional Approaches, Command and Control Instruments, The Market Based Approaches.
6	Feb. 22 - Feb. 28	Environmental Policies Under Uncertainty.
7	Mar. 1 - Mar. 7	Assessing the Benefits of the Environmental Services: The Contingent Valuation Method, Travel Cost Method, Hedonic Price Method, ...
8	Mar. 8 - Mar. 14	Assessing Benefits of the Environmental Services: The Contingent Valuation Method, Travel Cost Method, Hedonic Price Method, ...
9	Mar. 15 - Mar. 21	The Economics of Recycling.
10 - 11	Mar. 22 - Apr. 4	Environmental Policies in Order to Deal with Open Access to Environmental Resources (Tragedy of Commons). The Theory of Optimal Resource Extraction, Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources: Controlling Over-extraction, Over-fishing, Over-logging, ...
12	Apr. 5 - Apr. 9	The Economics of Water Quality Improvement. (On Time Allowing Basis)