

**ECO313H1S (Online)**  
**Environmental Economics & Policies, Summer 2020**  
**Economics Department, University of Toronto**

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**NOTE: ALL TIMES POSTED WILL BE IN TERMS OF LOCAL TORONTO TIME (ET)**

**Course Overview:**

This is a completely online course. The content is organized by week as shown in the table, on the last page, in terms of the topics. The order and topics of the materials could be different, in practice. We will not meet at a given lecture time, instead, the content will be posted during the week, possibly in a few pieces of pre-recorded videos. Each week, you are expected to complete the readings, and watch the videos.

**Time Zones:** All times posted will be in terms of the local Toronto time (ET). 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.

**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.

Also, we may use different applications, programs, or platforms for running, invigilating, or grading tests/assessments, including UofT Quercus, Crowdmark, ..., and proctoring programs. Moreover, we may use different platforms for office hours, and other communications, like Quercus, Zoom, .... So, you should be able to work with the applications and platforms.

**Important Notes About Technological Problems:** This course requires the use of computers and internet lines, and of course, sometimes things can go wrong. 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 assessment to allow for delays due to technical difficulties. Computer viruses, crashed hard drives, broken printers, lost or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, and similar mishaps are common issues when using technology, and are not acceptable grounds for a deadline extension, or missing assessments.

**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 BB Collaborate, Quercus or Zoom (but not recorded).

**There may not be tutorials every week.**

**Instructor Office Hours (live online):** Wednesdays 4:00-6:00PM (Toronto Time)

**TA Office Hours (live online):** TBA, in Quercus

## Course Description:

This course demonstrates a rigorous application of microeconomic techniques in order to respond to various environmental problems. First, we 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. In some cases, we will look, however short, at the alternative critical views too. The economics of recycling, preserving biodiversity, uncertainty and environmental policies, and optimal extraction of the environmental resources are special topics, among others, that will be touched. Case studies and real-world environmental policies will be discussed 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.

## 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, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Pearson Publishing.

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

## Evaluations/Grading Scheme:

	Midterm Online Test	Writing Assignment	Final Online Assessment
Date	July 23	Sunday, August 9	TBA, August final assessment period
Time	2:00-4:00PM	9 PM, SHARP	
Weight	35%	15%	50%

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

**Midterm Test:** If for emergency reasons, acceptable by the university rules, you miss the midterm term test, you must take an online makeup test on **August 13, 2:00-3:00PM**. The makeup test is **shorter** and may cover **more chapters** than the actual midterm test. This test is a private test, which the graded test will **not** be returned to you. In case of missing a test, you should inform me by email within 5 days from the test, with the related reasons and documentations. **If you miss the makeup test, you will receive zero mark, no matter why you miss the test.**

**Writing Assignment:** The topics and details of the writing assignments will be announced later on. You need to submit your essay directly to Quercus. I may decide to check an assignment by Turnitin, in suspicious cases. 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.

**Important:** You have plenty of time to finish the writing assignment, so please don't 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 missing writing assignment.

### **Emails and Quercus Course Website:**

**Quercus:** I will post the course exercises, notes, prerecorded videos, announcements, and maybe assessments on the Quercus course website. It is your responsibility to follow up and get the information about the test, makeup test, and other issues. More likely, I use Crowdmark for the midterm test and final assessments, but using other platforms is not ruled out.

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

**Emails:** If you have a question about the content of the course, the best approach is to ask it during the live office hours that the TA and I will hold.

I prefer to receive your emails to my UofT account (the one on the top of the first page), not Quercus website. I will send emails **ONLY** to your UofT account, and you need to send email using **ONLY** your UofT email account. In case of email, you should put the **course name and your student number in the subject line, otherwise I will not open your email.**

**Important:** 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.

## **Re-grading Appeals:**

In order to petition for re-grading your assessments, you should submit the Re-grading Request Form, by email, within 2 weeks after returning the grades (unless the deadline for submitting the final marks to the registrar office requires earlier deadline). 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.

## **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. Consider all graded term work as individual work. Collaborating, providing or receiving answers or unauthorized help from someone else on submitted work violates academic integrity.

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."

## **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>

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)

## Other Issues:

- I may not be able to cover every details in the reading materials or notes in my videos. But you are responsible for all the assigned reading materials, and the supplementary examples, graphs, and materials discussed in the videos and exercises, for the test and assessment.
- 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.

## Course Schedule:

### Topics:

**This is a tentative schedule for this course.**

**Actual pace, order, topics, and coverage of the materials might be different**

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>1:</b> July 6 - 10	- Sustainability and Limits to Economic Growth: Classical, Neoclassical, and Ecological Views and Measures
<b>2:</b> July 13 - 17	- Market Failure and Environment: Externalities and Public Goods - The Socially Efficient Levels of Emissions for Flow –Damage Pollutant, Spatial and Intertemporal Analysis of Stock-Damage Pollutant
<b>3:</b> July 20 - 24	- Solutions to Environmental Problems and Policy Instruments: Institutional Approaches, Command and Control Instruments, The Market Based Approaches - Regulation under uncertainty
<b>4:</b> July 27 - 31	- Assessing the Benefits of the Environmental Services: The Contingent Valuation Method, Travel Cost Method, Hedonic Price Method, ...
<b>5:</b> Aug 4 - 7	- Economics of Recycling - Economics of Climate Change (could be replaced by other topics)
<b>6:</b> Aug 10 - 13	- The Theory of Optimal Resource Extraction: Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources