

# ECO313H1F, Environmental Economics and Policies

Fall 2021, Economics Department

University of Toronto

**NOTE:** THE FOLLOWING PLANS ARE BASED ON CURRENT INFORMATION AND CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE COULD BE CHANGES AS THE HEALTH AND UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES REQUIRE.

**Instructor:** Masoud Anjomshoa

**Email:** [masoud.anjomshoa@utoronto.ca](mailto:masoud.anjomshoa@utoronto.ca)

## **Reading Materials:**

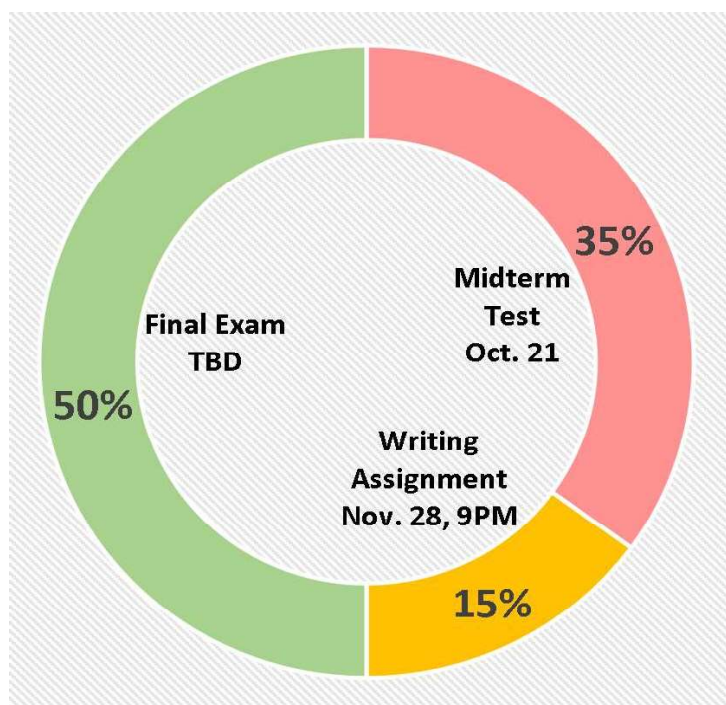
This course is involved with a lot of reading from different sources, as there is no single textbook that can be used for all the materials. The following textbooks are good sources for some of the topics. The readings will be assigned throughout the semester and will be available through the links to 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 course is designed for in-person delivery, however, because of the current uncertainties about how effective the in-person components are due to the social distancing, masks policies, and whether some students, TAs, or the instructor may miss sessions due to sickness or quarantine, the online elements still play a bigger role. Thus, comprehensive pre-recorded videos for lectures and tutorials will be posted for the whole semester on a weekly basis. Moreover, there will be a permanent weekly online office hour session during the semester besides the regular in-person office hours.

**THE STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO WATCH THE POSTED VIDEOS AND READ THE COURSE MATERIALS BEFORE ATTENDING THE IN-PERSON LECTURES AND TUTORIALS. THE LECTURES MAY NOT COVER ALL THE DETAILS DUE TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR TIME CONSTRAINTS.**

In order to use the online components properly, you must have access to a laptop or desktop computer with a strong and stable internet connection.

### Course Delivery during the Transitional Period:

During the first two weeks of the semester, all the course activities including the lectures, tutorials, and office hours will be held online through Zoom sessions, at the same scheduled times as in-person. The sessions may not be recorded, but you have the above-mentioned online materials.

We will start the normal in-person delivery in the third week of the semester. However, all the above-mentioned online benefits continue until the end of the course. So, those students who delay their presence until Oct. 21 (the in-person midterm test), still CAN enjoy all the course benefits.

### 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.



## 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.



### Evaluations/Grading Scheme:

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

## Fall 2021 Evaluation Schedule

Evaluation	Weight	Date	Time
Midterm Test	35%	October 21	Within the 2:00 - 5:00PM interval depending on the room availability
Writing Assignment	15%	November 28	9:00PM, sharp
Final Exam	50%	TBD	

## Makeup Test:

If for any emergency circumstances, acceptable by the university rules, you miss the midterm test, you should inform me by email within 5 days from the test, with the related reasons and documentations. There will be an in-person makeup test for the eligible students who miss the midterm test on **December 2, around**



**6PM.** The exact time and place will be set later. The test is a one-hour test 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 a zero mark, no matter why you miss the test.**

### Writing Assignment:

The topics and details of the writing assignment will be announced later. In suspicious cases, your assignment could be checked by **Ouriginal** (a substitute for Turnitin). The deadline for the writing assignment 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 assignment, it **cannot** be substituted by anything else.



### Warning Note:

- You have plenty of time to finish the writing assignment, but please do not leave them 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 missing the writing assignment.



### 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, announcements, ...

**Course Notes:** For your convenience, I will also post course notes on the website in pdf format. The notes are the written version of the presentations that I go over in videos and in class. But the notes are **NOT** complete, and the complete version is NOT available. Of course, you can complete the notes by watching the videos.

**Emails:** If you want to send me an email, you must send it from your UofT account to [masoud.anjomshoa@utoronto.ca](mailto:masoud.anjomshoa@utoronto.ca) . I prefer **NOT** to receive messages in Quercus Inbox.

### Re-grading Appeals:

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

The form contains the re-grading rules.





## Important Notes:

- Note that all the details in the notes or reading materials will not be discussed during the lectures, because of the time and other constraints. So, you should be willing to read the materials, watch the videos, and go through the calculations on your own.
- I made the pre-recorded video lectures a bit lengthy to explain the materials deeper, with more details, examples, calculations, and graphs to cut your study time. Of course, you can watch the videos at a faster speed, or fast forward the parts that you understand. Also, the videos are including some of the materials that I asked the students to do, study, or calculate by themselves in the past in-person classes. So, they help you to save more study time again. Some videos may cover more than a week worth of materials.
- 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 exam, 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. 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.

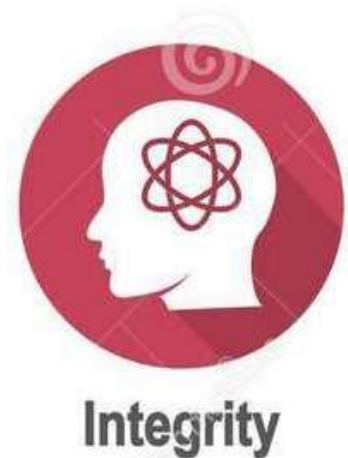
- Please note that all suspected cases will be reported to the Department of Economics and OSAI. Please consult with the university's Code of Behavior on Academic Matters:

<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 **Ouriginal** (instead of Turnitin). 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 use of Ouriginal is applied: “Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University’s plagiarism detection tool 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 tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site ( <https://uoft.me/pdt-faq> )”.

- **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:

The following is an estimated plan for the coverage. The actual pace, order, and materials could be different and would be on “as-we-go” basis.

Sessions	Week	Topics
1 - 2	Sep. 9 – Sep. 22	Sustainability and Limits to Economic Growth: Classical, Neoclassical, and Ecological Views, Measures, and Models.
3	Sep. 23 – Sep. 29	Market Failure and Environment: Externalities and Public Goods.
3-4	Sep. 30 – Oct. 6	The Socially Efficient Levels of Emissions for Flow – Damage Pollutant, Spatial and Intertemporal Analysis of Stock-Damage Pollutant.
4-5	Oct. 7 – Oct. 13	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Varieties of Policy Instruments, Institutional Approaches, Command and Control Instruments, The Market Based Approaches.
6	Oct. 14 – Oct. 20	Environmental Policies Under Uncertainty.
7	Oct. 21	Midterm Test
8	Oct. 28 – Nov. 3	Assessing the Benefits of the Environmental Services: The Contingent Valuation Method, Travel Cost Method, Hedonic Price Method, ...
9	Nov. 4 – Nov. 17	Assessing Benefits of the Environmental Services: The Contingent Valuation Method, Travel Cost Method, Hedonic Price Method, ...
10	Nov. 18 – Nov. 24	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, ...
11	Nov. 25 – Dec. 1	The Economics of Recycling.
12	Dec. 2 – Dec. 8	The Economics of Water Quality Improvement. (On Time Allowing Basis)