ECO313H1F, Environmental Economics and Policies

Fall 2023, Economics Department

University of Toronto

Instructor: Masoud Anjomshoa

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Office Hours: See the Quercus website.

Reading Materials:

This course requires extensive reading from various 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.
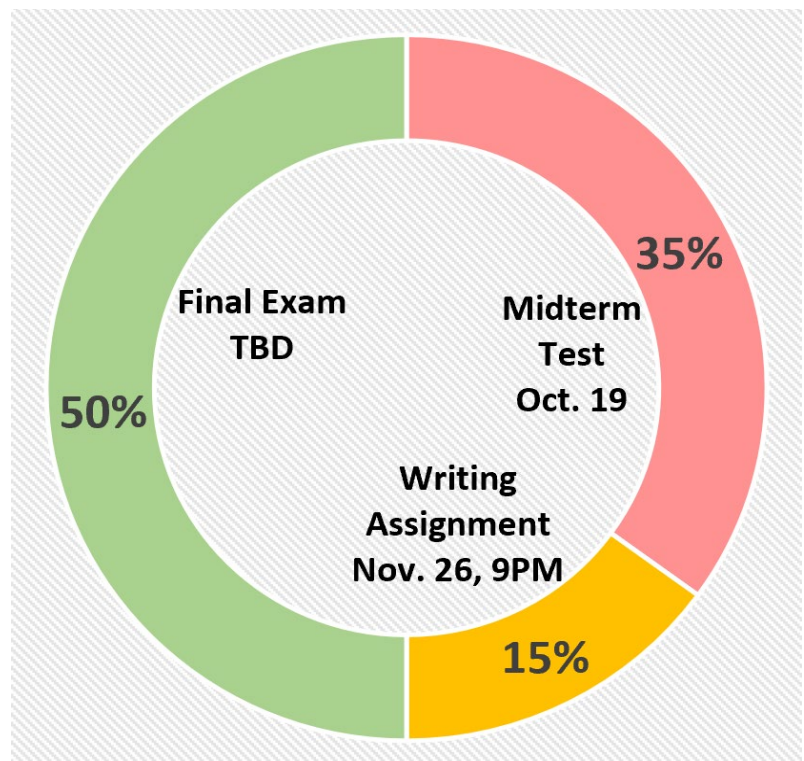
- Field, Barry C. and Nancy D. Olewiler, 2017. Environmental Economics, Forth Canadian Edition. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Evaluations/Grading Schemes:

Here are the components of the course evaluations. Please see the details in the later pages.

Lectures/Tutorials:

The lectures, tutorials, office hours, midterm test, and final exam will be held in-person. Some of the 3-hour course timeslots (2:00-5:00PM) are used for only lectures, and some of them will include two hours of lecture (2:00-4:00PM), and one hour of tutorial (4:00-5:00PM). The tutorials will be announced in advance.

Final Exam TBD — 50%
Midterm Test Oct. 19 — 35%
Writing Assignment Nov. 26, 9PM — 15%

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 Scheme:

Evaluation	Weight	Date	Time
Midterm Test	35%	October 19	2:00 - 4:00PM or 3:00-5:00PM
Writing Assignment	15%	November 26	9:00PM, sharp, online submission
Final Exam	50%		TBD

Makeup Test: If you miss the midterm test, you should declare your absence on ACORN, and send me a copy of the declaration within 5 days from the test, by email. There will be a makeup test for the eligible students who miss the midterm test on November 30, 6:00-7:00PM. The test 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.

Notes, Videos, Emails, and Quercus Course Website:

- Quercus: All the course materials like exercises, notes, videos, announcements, … will be posted on the Quercus course website. It is your responsibility to follow up and get the information about the tests, announcements, …

- Course Notes and Videos: For your convenience, I will post the course notes on the website in pdf format. But the notes are NOT complete, and the complete version is NOT available. This course is an in-person course, where attending the lectures is required. But I may post pre-recorded videos for SOME lectures, just as an extra help. I may also refer you for some non-technical parts of the course to the videos to save the lecture time.

- Emails: If you want to send an email, you must send it from your UofT account to masoud.anjomshoa@utoronto.ca. Preferably, you should NOT use the Quercus messaging system.

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 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 missing the writing assignment.

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 may not be discussed during the lectures, because of the time constraint. So, you should be willing to read the materials, and go through the calculations on your own.

- 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 applicable: 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 the 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.

- Using ChatGPT and other AI assistants: This course policy is designed to promote your learning and intellectual development and to help you reach course learning outcomes. It is fine, if using AI helps you to achieve this goal. However, representing as your own an idea, or expression of an idea, that was AI-generated may be considered an academic offense in this course.
Further guidelines will be provided about the proper use of AI assistance to complete your writing assignment for this course when the writing assignment details are posted.

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

Using Crowdmark Platform as the Grading Tool:

This course may use Crowdmark, a collaborative online grading tool for marking and providing feedback on graded term assessments. Crowdmark provides efficiencies with grading, data recording, returning term assessments and handling regrade requests. Copies of student work marked in Crowdmark, including grading and feedback, will be available online to students for at least one year. Digital (i.e., online) copies will serve as the authoritative record for course administrative purposes, and paper copies of assessments scanned and uploaded to Crowdmark will be destroyed after the term has ended and final grades are approved. If you have questions about how your information is stored on Crowdmark, please contact your course instructor.

Planned Course Schedule:

The following is an estimated plan for the coverage. The actual pace, order, and topics could be different.

Sessions	Weeks	Topics
1 - 2	Sep. 7–Sep. 20	Sustainability and Limits to Economic Growth: Classical, Neoclassical, and Ecological Views, Measures, and Models.
3	Sep. 21–Sep. 27	Market Failure and Environment: Externalities and Public Goods.
3 - 4	Sep. 28–Oct. 4	The Socially Efficient Levels of Emissions for Flow –Damage Pollutant, Spatial and Intertemporal Analysis of Stock-Damage Pollutant.
4 - 5	Oct. 5–Oct. 11	Solutions to Environmental Problems: Varieties of Policy Instruments, Institutional Approaches, Command and Control Instruments, The Market Based Approaches.
6	Oct. 12–Oct. 18	Environmental Policies Under Uncertainty.
7	Oct. 19	Midterm Test
8	Oct. 26–Nov. 1	Assessing the Benefits of the Environmental Services: The Contingent Valuation Method, Travel Cost Method, Hedonic Price Method, ...
9	Nov. 2–Nov. 15	Assessing Benefits of the Environmental Services: The Contingent Valuation Method, Travel Cost Method, Hedonic Price Method, ...
10	Nov. 16–Nov. 22	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. 23–Nov. 29	The Economics of Recycling.
12	Nov. 30–Dec. 6	The Economics of Water Quality Improvement. (On Time Allowing Basis)