

ECO313H1S, Environmental Economics and Policies

Summer 2024 (Online), Economics Department

University of Toronto

Instructor: Masoud Anjomshoa

Email: masoud.anjomshoa@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: See the Quercus website

Reading Materials:

This course is mainly based on the course notes and some reading materials from various sources, as there is no single textbook that can be used for all the materials. The readings will be assigned throughout the semester. 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. The following textbooks are good sources for some, but not all the materials.

- 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.

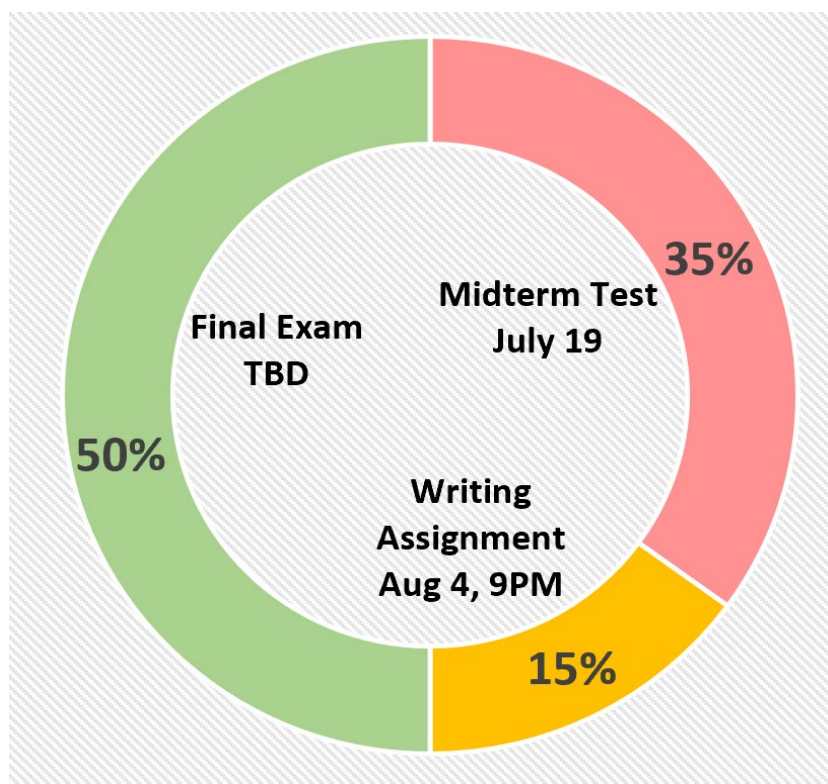
Evaluations/Grading Schemes:

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

Lectures/Tutorials:

All the course activities, except the final exam, will be held synchronously online through Zoom. The Tuesday timeslots (2:00-5:00PM) will be used only for lectures. Some of the Thursdays 3-hour timeslots will be used only for lectures, and some 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.

NOTE: All Times Are Eastern Time. (Local Toronto Time).



Course Delivery: The lectures, tutorials, and office hours will be held live (synchronously) during the scheduled times through Zoom.

- The live lectures will be recorded and posted, afterward.

- The course notes will be posted in advance. The notes may not be complete. The completed version is not available, But you can complete your notes using the videos.

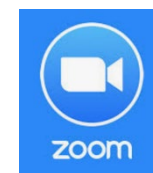
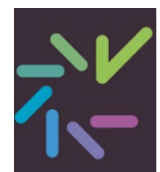
- I will post pre-recorded videos for the lectures. They may not exactly match the lecture materials, as I change the materials continuously. I almost every day add helpful comments and parts to the notes to make them easier to understand. Overall, the videos are more than 90% close to actual materials.

- I may not cover all the materials in the notes during the live lectures, so I may refer you to read the notes and watch videos for the materials.

Technology Requirements: You must have access to a laptop or desktop computer with a high-speed broadband internet connection. Having a cell phone is necessary, but not an acceptable substitute for a computer. A camera and microphone are required for online activities. Computer technical issues or internet connection problems cannot be used as excuses for failing in the course activities.

- You must ensure to maintain regular backup copies of your files 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 or deadlines.

- Different applications, programs, or platforms will be used for running, invigilating, or grading assessments, also for lectures, office hours, and other communications. These are including, but not limited to, UofT Quercus, Crowdmark, Zoom, ... You must make sure you have access, and able to work with these applications and platforms where you live.



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.

Course Description:

This course demonstrates a rigorous application of microeconomic and some macroeconomic theories 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%	Friday July 19	A 1.5-hour online test within the 7:00AM - 7:00PM window (The rules will be posted on Quercus)
Writing Assignment	15%	August 4	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.

- If you **start (open)** the online midterm test, you **cannot** claim missed test, and you are **NOT** eligible for the makeup test.
- The makeup test will be online, on **August 7, within 10:00AM-5:00PM window**.
- The format, length, coverage of the makeup test can be different from 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. There is a 25% per day penalty for the late submissions. Submissions after 4 days will not be accepted. If you miss the writing assignment, it **cannot** be substituted by anything else.

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), 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:

- 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 compared to the Toronto time. Errors in calculations are not an acceptable reason to miss deadlines.
- 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.
- Please note that the online assessments must be taken only by you without any outside help. Also during the testing window, any discussion of course material is prohibited.

- **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

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 actual order and topics of the materials might be changed, if needed.

Weeks	Topics
July 2 and 4	- Sustainability and Limits to Economic Growth: Classical, Neoclassical, and Ecological Views, Measures, and Models
July 9 and 11	– 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
July 16 and 18	– Solutions to Environmental Problems Using a Wide Range of Policy Instruments: Institutional Approaches, Command and Control Approaches, The Market Based Approaches. – Environmental Policies and Regulation under Uncertainty
July 23 and 24	- Assessing the Benefits of the Environmental Services: The Contingent Valuation Method, Travel Cost Method, Hedonic Price Method, ...
July 30 and August 1	– Environmental Policies Dealing 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, ...
August 6 and 8	– Economics of Recycling – The Economics of Water Quality Improvement. (On Time Allowing Basis)