ECO199, Economics and Sustainable, Green Development

Winter 2025, Economics Department

University of Toronto

Instructor: Masoud Anjomshoa

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Office Hours: See the Quercus website.

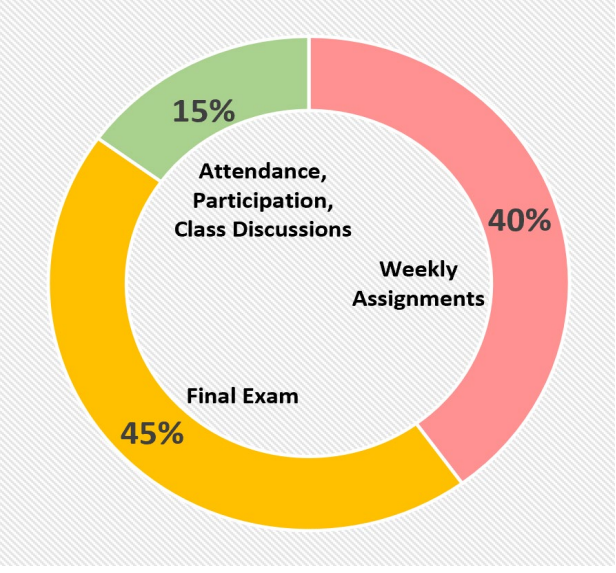
Reading Materials:

There is no single book that covers all the topics in this course. There will be reading materials from varieties of sources, which will be assigned over the course of the semester. Students are supposed to read the materials beforehand to participate in class discussions.

Course Description:

Economic growth has been a powerful force through history in improving living standards throughout the world. At the same time, there is a growing recognition that environmental damage frequently accompanies this growth, whether it be at the local level (pollution, soil degradation, deforestation, ⋯), or the global level (climate change). Economic analysis studies the allocation of scarce resources, but how can it incorporate "the environment" in a meaningful way that can help guide policymakers in the 21st century? How can the trade-off between growth and the environment (if there is one) be assessed? What is "sustainable" or "green" development?

This course, first, defines the way of economic thinking, its tools, and policy instruments, in order to incorporate the value of environmental resources in the process of economic decision making to achieve a sustainable growth.



Evaluations/Grading Schemes:

Here are the components of the course evaluations. Please see the details below.

Evaluations Scheme:

Evaluation	Weight	Date
Attendance, Participation, and Class Discussions	15%	During the semester
Weekly Assignments	40%	During the semester
Final Exam	45%	During the final exam period

Note: If you miss the lectures or assignments, they cannot be made up by anything else.

Course Format:

- This course is a fully in-person course, with required attendance and participation.
- The lectures will be expected to be discussion-driven and interactive, and students are expected to engage in the class discussions and debates by questions and answers.
- The first step of an active participation and engagement in class is attendance, therefore the attendance is taken at the beginning of each session.
- The weekly assignments will be posted in the Quercus website, which are due a week later, and should be uploaded back to Quercus. There could be non-graded exercises, posted on Quercus to understand the materials better, and good examples for the final exam.
- Also, there could be discussions based on the assignments to let you elaborate on your answers. So, do not do the assignments mechanically, and be ready to defend your answers.
- This course requires reading course materials, writing short pieces, drawing graphs, and working out simple numerical questions. Similarly, the final exam may include short answer questions, and questions involved with graphs and simple numerical calculations.

Notes, Emails, and Quercus Course Website:

- Quercus: All the course materials like exercises, notes, announcements, … will be posted on the Quercus course website. Your solutions to the assignments have to be uploaded to Quercus too. It is your responsibility to follow up and get the information about the course from Quercus.
- 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

Important Note:

- 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 relevant for all 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
- 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 writing skills, 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

Planned Course Schedule:

The tentative schedule of the course materials. Actual pace, order, and coverage might be different.

Weeks	Topics
1 – 2	Introduction: Main Environmental Issues, The Economic Approach, and the Way of Economic Thinking. Market Mechanism for Resources Allocation.
3 – 4	Sustainable Economic Growth: What is Sustainability? Definitions, Approaches, Measurements, and Requirements.
5 – 6	Market Failure and Environmental Issues: Externalities, Public Goods, and Common Properties.
7	Environmental Policies (Institutional Approaches): Property Laws, Liability laws, Biodiversity Offsets, … Applications: Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation, Wetlands, Forests, …
8	Environmental Policies (Command and Control Instruments): Input Restrictions, Technology Standard, Emission Licenses, Zoning Policies Applications: Pollution Control, Discharges to Air and Water, Landfills, …
9	Environmental Policies (Market-based Policies): Emission Fees, Taxes/Subsidies Applications: Pollution Control, Discharges to Air, Water, Landfills, …
10	Environmental Policies (Market-based Policies): Cap and Trade (Transferable Permits) Applications: Pollution Control, Discharges to Air and Water, Landfills, …
11	Recycling Policies: Tax, Transferable Permits, and Refund Policies
12	Environmental Policies in Order to Deal with Open Access to Environmental Resources (Tragedy of Commons): Applications: Controlling Overextraction, Overfishing, Overlogging, …