

SYLLABUS
ECON 590: Topics in Economics: Environmental Economics and Policy

Valparaiso University
Summer II 2022

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Class Meetings: **Asynchronous Online**

Office Hours (via Zoom): TBD

I. Course Overview:

This course will provide an introduction to the area of Environmental Economics. In this course we provide an economist's perspective of environmental problems and their solutions. Since there is no introductory Economics prerequisite for this course, we will learn some economic theory along the way and the focus will be on the application of economic theory to analyze environmental issues and in the development of environmental policy.

I. Graduate School Student Learning Objectives

- Students will understand and practice methods of inquiry and strategies of interpretation within the student's field of study.
- Students will master the knowledge and skills pertinent to the student's field of study.
- Students will effectively articulate the ideas, concepts, and methods through written and oral presentation.
- Students will understand the connection between their knowledge and skills on the one hand and their professional identity, responsibilities, and demands on the other. • Students will integrate knowledge and methods of their study with cognates and other disciplines.
- Students will study, reflect upon, and practice ethical behavior and cultural sensitivity as they relate to professional and personal responsibility.

II. University Student Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate theoretical and practical knowledge as well as the intellectual skills and creative capacities pertinent to their respective fields of study.
- Solve both conceptual and applied problems by integrating broad-based knowledge, evidence-based reasoning, and informational literacy.
- Practice experiential, interdisciplinary, and collaborative learning in both academic and co-curricular pursuits.
- Communicate effectively in oral, written, and digital forms in increasingly complex contexts.
- Engage in cross-cultural dialogue and experiences with the requisite knowledge to succeed in a diverse, global community.
- Develop character, integrity, and wisdom as they discern their vocations and prepare to ethically lead and serve church and society.

III. Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, you will be expected to understand:

- The fundamentals of economics, including what we mean by efficiency.
- The requirements of efficient markets and the conditions under which markets fail.
- The method of cost-benefit analysis.
- Economic techniques for measuring the value of environmental goods.
- Environmental regulation and the use of market-based policies to address environmental problems
- Economic analysis of major environmental problems (air and water) and policy solutions.

Please note that when you realize the Course Learning Objectives, you are concurrently and partially fulfilling the University Student Learning Objectives listed above

IV. Text:

Primary Text: Primary Text: *Environmental Economics: An Introduction*, Field, Barry C. and Field, Martha K., McGraw Hill.

Supplementary Reading: *Please check Blackboard for regular updates on readings and upcoming assignments.*

V. Grading:

Grading criteria: 60% - Assignments

20% - Midterm Exam

20% - Final Exam:

Grade Distribution: The following grade distribution is intended to give you a general idea of your standing in the course.

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	100-92	A-	92-88
B+	88-84	B	84-80
B-	80-76	C+	76-72
C	72-68	C-	68-64
D+	64-60	D	60-56
D-	56-52	F	<52

VI. Exams:

- There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of family or medical emergency. Therefore please ensure that you are able to take the exam on the given dates.
- If you require extra time for exams or any other special accommodations due to disabilities please let me know at the beginning of the semester.

VII. Access and Accommodation:

- The *Access & Accommodations Resource Center (AARC)* is the campus office that works with students to provide access and accommodations in cases of diagnosed mental or emotional health issues, attentional or learning disabilities, vision or hearing limitations, chronic diseases, or allergies.
- You can contact the office at aarc@valpo.edu or 219.464.5206. Students who need, or think they may need, accommodations due to a diagnosis, or who think they have a diagnosis, are invited to contact AARC to arrange a confidential discussion with the AARC office.
- Further, students who are registered with AARC are required to contact me if they wish to exercise the accommodations outlined in their letter from the AARC.

VIII. Covid-19 Classroom Conduct Statement

Even though we are meeting remotely, please be aware of the University's COVID-19 policy.

Following University policy, all students, faculty, and staff attending an on-campus class or event must be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, except for those who receive official University exemptions. When necessary for the safety of all, the University may require all faculty, students, and staff to wear a mask indoors for discrete periods of time. Any such decision will be made in consultation with the county and state health departments, the local conditions, and the advice of the CDC. At all times, individuals who are not vaccinated will be required to wear a mask indoors. All University policies will be updated regularly at <https://www.valpo.edu/covid-info/>. Consistent with general faculty oversight of classroom conduct, students are required to follow the university guidelines for safety in the classrooms, labs, and other learning spaces.

- Students who fail to abide by these rules will first be asked to comply because it is University policy at this time; if they refuse, they will be reminded that it is required.
- If they again fail to comply then they will receive an unexcused absence for the class and may also receive a zero on any tests, quizzes, or other evaluated activities for that day, and/or a 5% reduction of their final class grade for each occurrence of non-compliance.
- Non-vaccinated students who refuse to wear a mask will be reported to the Dean of Student Life for conduct in violation of University policy.
- All instructors have the authority to ask all students to wear a mask in their classroom and create a seating chart for their classroom.
- Students who feel ill should not attend in-person classes. The University will provide information to the instructor, in a manner that complies with privacy laws, about students in these categories.
- Students required to miss class because they are following a COVID protocol outlined by their healthcare provider or the University should contact their instructors via email to create a plan for keeping up to date with their studies. University guidelines will be updated regularly at <https://www.valpo.edu/lookingforward/>

IX. Assignments:

- Homeworks, in-class assignments and readings will be handed out on a random basis. Please ensure that you submit your homeworks in a timely manner. There is a 20% penalty on the homework grade for every day of late submission. Before you start working on the assignments it is strongly recommended that you read the chapter and understand key concepts. Also do not leave completion of the homework to the last minute as they do involve some prior understanding of the relevant material.
- You will be required to do a variety of analyses involving graphing, computations and calculations, especially on the homework assignments, to help you develop strong problem solving skills, and build a sound foundation of the concepts covered in class.
- During the course of the semester I will occasionally post problems and readings on Blackboard and/or distribute them in class. These assignments are intended to improve your understanding of the material and will not be graded. It is your responsibility to work on these exercises and approach me if you have any difficulty understanding the material or are unable to solve the problems. If you are not able to make it during my office hours you can also make an appointment to see me at any other time.
All relevant readings, chapter outlines and review material will be posted on Blackboard.

X. Class Cancellation:

- Notifications of class cancellations will be made through Blackboard with as much advance notice as possible. It will be both posted on Blackboard and sent to your Valpo e-mail address.
- If you do not check your Valpo e-mail account regularly or have it set-up to be forwarded to your preferred e-mail account, you may not get the message. Please check Blackboard and your Valpo e-mail (or the e-mail address it forwards to) before coming to class.

XI. Honor Code:

Valparaiso University operates under a student initiated Honor Code. Each student studying at Valparaiso University agrees to conform to the Code. All new students should read the following explanation, since they must sign their registration form indicating that they will abide by the Honor Code. The Honor Code is an integral part of VU and permits students to do their academic work in an atmosphere of responsible freedom. The Honor Code is based on the highest principles of Christian ethics and morality and presumes that every student is willing to maintain honesty in all academic work, as well as other phases of university living. Students are required to sign the pledge, indicating that they have submitted honest work and have not allowed the dishonesty of others to erode the integrity of the Honor System:

**I have neither given or received
nor have I tolerated others' use of unauthorized aid.**

The Honor Code applies to all students registered for academic credit at Valparaiso University. Students have the responsibility for not using, giving or tolerating unauthorized aid. When the definition of authorized aid is in question, students should ask the instructor to interpret the application of the Honor Code.

X. Academic Support:

The librarian best able to help you navigate information resources for independent research or additional reading is listed on the library research guide for our department. The guide can be found at (<http://libguides.valpo.edu/economics>). Our librarian for Economics is Professor Ruth Connell. Her contact information can be found on the Economics liaison guide at <http://library.valpo.edu/liaison.html>

XI. Title IX:

Valparaiso University strives to provide an environment free of discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking). If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, we encourage you to report the incident. If you report the incident to a University faculty member or instructor, she or he must notify the University’s Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident.

Disclosures to University faculty or instructors of sexual misconduct incidents are not confidential under Title IX.

Confidential support services available on campus include: Sexual Assault Awareness & Facilitative Education Office “SAAFE” (219-464-6789), Counseling Center (219-464-5002), University Pastors (219-464-5093), and Student Health Center (219- 464-5060). For more information, visit <http://www.valpo.edu/titleix/>

XII. Emergencies:

VU’s Emergency Notification System (ENS) uses multiple forms of communication, including e-mail, building alarms, outdoor sirens, message boards, computer alerts, Twitter, and public address messaging. Please review the specific procedures for this class found in Blackboard. Remember: “Siren inside, GO outside; Siren outside, GO inside.” To evacuate, gather your personal belongings quickly and proceed to the nearest exit. Do not use the elevator. To shelter in place, move away from the windows and stay low to the ground; lock or barricade the door if there is a threat of violence.

XVII. Course Topics:

The following table gives a *tentative* outline of the chapter topics and schedule for the semester. I will periodically post readings and make announcements on Blackboard and in class and it is your responsibility to stay current with the course material. *Stay tuned!*

Number	Week	Topic
1	06/26	Syllabus and Introduction What is Environmental Economics The Economy and the Environment

2	06/26	Benefits, Costs, Supply and Demand
3	07/03	Benefits, Costs, Supply and Demand
4	07/03	Market Externalities and Public Goods
5	07/10	Market Externalities and Public Goods
6	07/10	The Economics of Environmental Quality Benefit- Cost Analysis: Benefits
7	07/17	Benefit- Cost Analysis: Benefits Benefit-Cost Analysis: Costs
8	07/17	Command and Control Strategies: The Case of Standards
9	07/24	Incentive Based Strategies: Market Trading Systems
10	07/24	Incentive Based Strategies: Market Trading Systems
11	07/31	Global Climate Change
12	07/31	Environmental Justice
13	08/04	Economic Development and the Environment
14	08/04	Review