



ECO 270 Environmental and Resource Economics

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course examines environmental and resource issues emphasizing the role of economics in understanding their causes, consequences, and potential solutions. It also discusses how to design the environmental policies to improve the quality of the natural environment. The main topics include sustainable natural resource use, climate change, biodiversity, benefit-cost analysis, overfishing, deforestation, comparative environmental policies and so on. This course aims to make students understand the economic concepts and frameworks that relate to an efficient in detail.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify current environmental problems and economic efforts.
2. Comprehend the principals of environmental economics.
3. Apply economic concepts and theories to solve environmental-related problems.
4. Examines how human values and institutions shape our demands.
5. Establish a deeper awareness of environmental protection.

PREREQUISITES

ECO 110 Microeconomics, ECO 120 Macroeconomics

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	20 Points
Assignments	30 Points
Midterm Exam	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Barry C. Field, Nancy D. Olewiler, *Environmental Economics*, 4th Edition, McGraw Hill Ryerson Limited Press, 2015.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Economy and the Environment Topic 2: Analytical Tools Topic 3: Benefits and Costs Topic 4: Supply and Demand Assessments: Quiz#1 Assignment#1
Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Economic Efficiency and Markets Topic 6: Economics of Environmental Quality Topic 7: Environmental Analysis Topic 8: Frameworks of Analysis Assessments:



	Quiz#2 Assignment#2
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Benefit-Cost Analysis: Costs Topic 10: Criteria for Evaluating Environmental Policies Topic 11: Decentralized Policies: Liability Laws, Property Rights, Voluntary Action Topic 12: Command-and-Control Strategies: The Case of Standards Assessments: Midterm Quiz#3
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Incentive-Based Strategies: Emission Charges and Subsidies Topic 14: Federal Water & Air Pollution -- Control Policy Topic 15: Federal Policy on Toxic and Hazardous Substances Topic 16: State and Local Environmental Issues Section Assessments: Quiz#4 Assignment#3
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Comparative Environmental Policies Topic 18: Economic Development and the Environment Topic 19: The Global and International Environment Topic 20: Final Exam Reviews Assessments: Final Exam

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed



the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for



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access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.