



湖北工业大学  
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

<b>Course Title</b>	Environmental Economics
<b>Course Code</b>	ECON 2241
<b>Semester</b>	Summer 2025
<b>Course Length</b>	5 weeks, 60 Contact Hours
<b>Credits</b>	4
<b>Instructor</b>	TBA
<b>Office</b>	TBA
<b>Email</b>	TBA
<b>Prerequisite</b>	ECON 1111 Microeconomics

### Course Description:

Environmental economics is concerned with the impact of the economy on the environment, the significance of the environment to the economy, and the appropriate way of regulating economic activity so that a balance is achieved among environmental, economic, and other social goals. The course serves as an introduction to the economics of the environment and natural resources, with an emphasis on environmental management and policy from an economic perspective. We will explore general resource and environmental issues and problems, such as those involving energy, water, agriculture, forests, biodiversity, and fisheries, and address pollution and environmental degradation.

### Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

### Student Learning Outcomes (aka Objectives):

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

- demonstrate an understanding of environmental responsibility and natural resource scarcity, and its role within economic science and economic growth;
- demonstrate a basic understanding of the interdependent relationship between the economy and the environment, and the long-term thinking necessary to grow the world economy while simultaneously protecting environmental resources;
- evaluate the marginal benefits and marginal costs of environmental cleanup and contrast the optimal solution of the free market versus competing views of valuing the environment.

### **Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:**

Tom Tietenberg & Lynne Lewis. 2020. *Environmental Economics and Policy*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **Homework**

Over the semester there will be several problem sets and multiple reading assignments. No late assignments will be accepted and no assignment will be dropped from your grade. Grading will be done on a completion basis (note that quality can still be considered).

#### **Midterm Exam**

The midterm will cover all material (readings, problem sets, lectures) covered up to the exam date. The format will be short essay questions.

#### **Final Exam**

The final exam will cover all material (readings, problem sets, lectures) covered after the midterm and up to the exam date. The format will be short essay questions.

#### **Paper / Proposal**

The final portion of your grade will be a paper or proposal. It may be completed with one partner if you wish to team up. I expect the paper to be 3-6 single-spaced pages. The subject matter is up to you, so long as it is related to environmental economics. You may choose to either analyze a current or historical issue in environmental economics using the tools and models from class or create a proposal for a research project on an environmental issue. Further details will be provided concerning my expectations of the project.

<b>Assessments: Activity</b>	<b>Percent Contribution</b>
Homework	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Paper/Proposal	25%

### **Grading:**

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

<b>Percentage of available points</b>	<b>Grade</b>
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90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
<60	F

**Course Schedule:**

*The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, and major ones provided in writing.*

ECON 2241 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Introduction / Course Overview	
L2	The Role of Economics in Formulating and Implementing Policy	Chapter 1
	The Sustainability Problem and Economics	
L3	Property Rights	Chapter 2
L4	Negative Externalities, and Environmental Problems	Chapter 2
L5	The Role of Policy Instrument Choice in Efficient Environmental Management	Chapter 3
L6	Evaluating Trade-Offs: Benefit-Cost Analysis	Chapter 4
L7	Other Decision-Making Metrics	Chapter 4
L8	Sustainable Development: Defining the concept	Chapter 5
L9	Valuing the Environment: Methods and Examples	Chapter 5
L10	Ecosystem Goods and Services: Nature's Threatened Bounty	Chapter 6
L11	The Population Challenge	Chapter 6
	Food Security	
L12	Fisheries	Chapter 7
L13	Forests	Chapter 7
L14	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	---
L15	Climate Change I: The Nature of the Challenge	Chapter 8
L16	Climate Change II: The Role of Energy Policy	Chapter 9
	Fossil Fuels and Climate Change	
L17	Climate Change III: Carbon Pricing	Chapter 10
L18	Climate Change IV: Adaptation	Chapter 11
L19	Agriculture	Chapter 11
L20	Transportation: Managing Congestion and Local Pollution	Chapter 12
L21	Stationary-Source Local Air Pollution	Chapter 12
L22	Water: Managing Water Quality for Rivers, Lakes and Oceans	Chapter 13
L23	Toxics Policy and Environmental Justice	Chapter 14
L24	Meeting the Challenges: The Role of Economics	Chapter 15
	*Paper/Project Submission	
L25	<b>Final Exam</b>	---

**Accommodation Statement:**

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

**Academic Integrity Statement**

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

**Other Items:****Attendance and Expectations**

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

**Assignment Due Dates**

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**Make-Up Work**

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

**Access, Special Needs and Disabilities**

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.