

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS & FINANCE**

**ECON 2400-01
ECONOMICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT
MW 3:10 pm - 4:25 pm, Classroom Building 222
SPRING 2009**

Instructor: Edward B. Barbier
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Telephone: Office 766-2358, Department 766-2178
Office Hours: Monday 4:30-5:30 pm and Wednesday 2:00-3:00 pm or by appointment
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Class Homepage: https://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/BARBIER_LECTURE/

Required Textbooks:

Tietenberg, Tom. 2007. *Environmental Economics and Policy*, 5th ed. Addison-Wesley Longman, New York.

Pearce, David W. and Barbier, Edward B. 2000. *Blueprint for a Sustainable Economy*. Earthscan Publications, London.

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to the economics of the environment, with an emphasis on examining environmental management and policy from an economic perspective. The course will explore general resource and environmental issues and problems, such as those involving energy, water, agricultural, biodiversity, fisheries and pollution, as well as current global concerns, such as population growth, global climate change, and sustainable development.

Course Prerequisites: ECON 1010, 1020 or consent of instructor.

Course Goals: This introductory course examines in detail the relationship between the economy and the natural environment. Primary attention is given to efficient environmental management and policies. Current environmental issues are studied and evaluated from an economic perspective.

Learning Objectives: By completing the requirements of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) Understand how basic economic concepts and methods can be used to analyze key national and global environmental issues.
- (2) Understand how economic analysis may contribute to environmental policy and management.
- (3) Explain the use of economic instruments in environmental policy.
- (4) Become aware of the economic implications of current and future global and national environmental problems.

Outcomes and Grade Determination: The academic requirements of this course consist of three short essays, a term paper and a final exam. Each student's final grade in the course will be determined as follows:

Three short essays	45% (15% each)
Term paper	30%
Final examination	25%

The three short essays will be assigned during the course. Further guidelines for each essay will be distributed at the time of its assignment. Each essay should be a minimum of 750 words and a maximum of 1,250 words (i.e. 3-5 pages), and it must be handed in by the assigned due date. These are: **February 9, March 2, and March 30**. Any essay handed in after its assigned due date will lose automatically ten points for each day late. If the essay is more than three days late, it will not be graded and receive zero points. This policy is not negotiable. Undertaking these essays will be an important preparation for the term paper and final exam.

A term paper is a required component of the final course grade. The term paper is to be between 10 and 15 pages in length. Further guidelines for the paper will be handed out during the course. The term paper will be due on **Wednesday April 29**. Any paper handed in after this due date will lose automatically ten points for each day late. If the term paper is more than three days late, it will not be graded and receive zero points. This policy is not negotiable.

The final examination is scheduled for **Wednesday May 6 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm**. The exam will involve answering two out of four essay-based questions. Their aim is to test students' knowledge of the economic concepts, methods and applications covered in the entire course.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes. Any student who fails to attend regularly will inevitably fall behind and find that his or her performance is badly affected.

Academic Dishonesty: Also known as "cheating" academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Cases of academic dishonesty will be prosecuted in accordance with UNIREG 802 Rev.2. Cheating in this course can result in an "F" final grade. In this course, academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) unapproved assistance on examinations, copying the work of others, plagiarism or other use of published materials without complete citations, or fabrication of referenced information, including purchasing and/or downloading from the internet others' work without acknowledging this source.

Participation and Group Work Policy: In-class group discussion will be part of this course, but no graded group work is anticipated. Students are encouraged to discuss lectures, readings and assignments with each other outside of class. However, each student is responsible for submitting his or her own short essays and term paper, and will be graded accordingly.

Classroom Department/Decorum: Students are expected to treat each other and the instructor with respect, and to be civil during in-class group discussion. Ancillary talking during class is discouraged; cell phones should be turned off; and laptop and electronic devices should be used for note taking only. Please inform the instructor if you are going to be late for class or have to leave early.

Final Examination Time and Policy: The final exam will be on Wednesday May 6, 3:30 pm-5:30 pm, Classroom Building 222.

Office Assistant: If I am not available, please try contacting my Office Assistant, Ms Margie Reis, Room 137 Ross Hall, office phone 766-2548 email mreis@uwyo.edu
Also, Ms Reis may contact you from time to time by phone or email with further information and updates on this course.

Office Hours Cancellation Policy: Cancellation of any office hours or appointments will be notified via a notice on my door or by email. Please also contact my Office Assistant, Ms Reis, if you are unable to contact me.

Outside-Office-Hours Email/phone/office visit Policy: If you wish to see me in person outside of office hours, please make an appointment. Students generally find it is easier to contact me via email than by phone. I encourage students to ask me short questions by email, as this method can be quicker than an appointment if the query is straightforward. Please also contact my Office Assistant, Ms Reis, if you are unable to contact me. I reserve the right to turn students away who “drop by” my office outside of scheduled office hours or without an appointment.

Course Calendar: A tentative calendar for the course is indicated below under the heading **Course Readings and Schedule**.

Disclaimer: All of the information in this course syllabus is subject to change when deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified verbally in class, via postings on the class homepage, or by email if such changes occur.

Student Services – If you have a physical learning, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let us know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, Room 330, Knight Hall, 766 6189.

Course Readings and Schedule

Course Readings: Most of the required reading for this course will be from Tietenberg, and this text will be used as the basis for most lectures. However, the Pearce and Barbier text will also be useful for some topics.

Occasionally, short readings and articles to supplement the two texts may be distributed in class. Such readings will be for your interest only or to stimulate class discussions.

Course Schedules and Assignments:

- Week 1: Introduction and key concepts**
Tietenberg, Chapters 1-2; Pearce and Barbier, Chapter 1.
- Week 2: Sustainable development: the concept**
Tietenberg, Chapter 5; Pearce and Barbier, Chapter 2.
- Week 3: Valuing the environment**
Tietenberg, Chapter 3; Pearce and Barbier, Chapter 3

- Week 4: Valuing the environment (cont.)**
Tietenberg, Chapter 3; Pearce and Barbier, Chapter 3
- Week 5: The causes of environmental degradation**
Tietenberg, Chapters 4, 6 and 20; Pearce and Barbier, Chapter 6.
First short essay due on Monday February 9.
- Week 6: Key concepts in environmental and resource economics**
Tietenberg, Chapters 7 and 13.
- Week 7: Air pollution: global and local**
Tietenberg, Chapters 14-16.
- Week 8: Air pollution: global and local (cont.)**
Tietenberg, Chapters 14-16.
Second short essay due on Monday March 2.
- Week 9: Water pollution, solid waste and hazardous substances**
Tietenberg, Chapters 17-19.
- Week 10: Forestry and fisheries**
Tietenberg, Chapters 11 and 12.
- Week 11: Forestry and fisheries (cont.)**
Tietenberg, Chapters 11 and 12.
- Week 12: Energy, water and agriculture**
Tietenberg, Chapters 8-10.
Third short essay due on Monday March 30.
- Week 13: Implementing environmental policies**
Pearce and Barbier, Chapters 7-8.
- Week 14: Attaining sustainable development**
Tietenberg, Chapters 21-22; Pearce and Barbier, Chapters 9-11.
- Week 15: Course wrap up**
Term paper due on Wednesday April 29.
- Week 16: Final Exam Wednesday May 6 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.**