ENVS 220 – Introduction to Ecological Economics, Version December 30th, 2019

School of Environment, Enterprise and Development
Faculty of Environment
University of Waterloo

Winter 2020

ENVS 220
Ecological Economics

Course Instructors: Jeffrey Wilson
E-mail: jeffrey.wilson@uwaterloo.ca
EV3 Room 4249
Phone: (519) 888-4567 ext.40049
Office hours:
Tuesdays, 1PM to 2:00PM/ 5:30-6:30PM (or by appointment)

Class Time / Location: Wednesday, 2:30-4:20pm Room: DC 1351

Course Description
Ecological economics is an emergent, transdisciplinary field of inquiry whose primary concern is to advance the body of theory and tools to understand and manage the environmental dimensions of economic activity. It is an explicitly normative field oriented towards environmental sustainability in economic organization. Ecological economists recognize three conditions necessary to environmental sustainability: appropriate scale (relative to biocapacity), efficient allocation, and just distribution.

Given the breadth of material encompassed within the scope of ecological economics, this class will explore a subset of possible topics including the basic principles and theory of scale, efficiency, and distributive justice. In addition, the class will look at how these apply to managing real world issues in environmental management and explore the tools used by ecological economists to quantify and interpret scale, efficiency, and distributive justice. This course is designed as a one-term introduction to ecological economics for students in the Faculty of Environment with little or no prior exposure to economics.

The course includes a group learning component. A high level of student preparation and engagement is expected. The engaged learning format requires a high level of self-sufficiency and willingness to support and work with peers.

Learning Objectives
- Inspire and challenge students to think differently about economic concepts and ideas as they pertain to issues of sustainability and intra and intergenerational equity;
- Introduce key concepts and topics towards understanding the economic dimensions of environmental sustainability;
- Provide a sound knowledge base in economic concepts and tools as they relate to environmental sustainability;
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➢ Provide framework for analyzing the economic dimensions of sustainability issues;
➢ Encourage peer learning.
➢ Have fun.

Course Management
The course will be managed via LEARN. It is imperative that you visit LEARN regularly for notices and updates.

*** We will be using i-clicker. If you don’t already have i-clicker you can purchase this at the bookstore.
To register your account go to the following link.
https://uwaterloo.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1804/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=61196

Required Text and Readings
For each class, there are a set of readings that introduce and support the materials to be covered that week. Links to electronic readings will be accessed through the course LEARN site by week.

In addition, journals that will be of particular interest include:

- Ecological Economics
- Ecosystem Services
- Journal of Ecological Indicators
- Journal of Industrial Ecology
- Sustainability

The following books are excellent references.


Electronic Communication Policy

**E-mail:** All electronic communication should be sent through LEARN. The instructor will try to reply to inquiries from students within 3 business days. Please ensure that you include the course number (ENVS 220) in the subject line, as well as a meaningful descriptor of the topic of your inquiry. Make sure you consult the course outline/syllabus and other course materials before submitting inquiries.

**Laptop use in-class:** Laptops are permitted in class for course-related purposes only. Anybody found accessing the internet for other purposes (e.g. checking email, chatting, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, non-course sites, playing on-line games, etc.) or using laptops off-line for non-course purposes (e.g. games, movies, music) will be asked to leave the classroom.

**Cell phones and other mobile devices:** Please make sure that cell phones, iPhones and other similar devices are turned off while in class.

Student Evaluation

Student grades will be assessed based on a combination of individual assignments, group learning assignments, an end of term exam, and engagement marks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group contract assignment</td>
<td>Feb. 3rd</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Learning assignment 1 – Carbon pricing assignment</td>
<td>Feb. 10th</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Learning assignment 2 – Indicator assignment</td>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Learning assignment 3 - Video</td>
<td>March 15th</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make the impossible-possible</td>
<td>Ongoing up to April 1st</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>Exam period</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall engagement</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All assignments will be submitted by LEARN. Assignments must be submitted by midnight on the due date. Unless arrangements are made with the instructor in advance, late assignments will be penalized 10% per day. Assignments will be marked within two weeks. Once marks are returned, you have one week to follow up on your mark. After that point, marks will be closed.
Schedule
A proposed schedule of course activities by week is available on the LEARN site under course content. Dr. Wilson reserves the right to adjust dates and/or topics as needed. All modifications/updates will be posted in advance on the LEARN site.

Preparing Course Work: Referencing, Citations and Writing
Students are expected to present all of their work (written, oral) in a professional manner. The quality of students’ writing and presentations should reflect this. Students are expected to draw upon the relevant academic and policy literature when conducting research and preparing assignments.


When referencing the work of others, be consistent in the style you choose. There are several different referencing and citation styles that are used when preparing written work in a university setting. Two of the most common formats used in this field are: the APA (American Psychological Association) style and the Council of Science Editors (CSE) style. Variants on these two common formats are often used by academic journals in economic development and related disciplines (c.f. *Economic Development Quarterly*). The reference section in Dana Porter Library has hard copies of the complete style guides and there are many guides available on-line as well.

Grading and Late Policy
Grading expectations: The following table provides students with a basic guideline to grading in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark/100</th>
<th>Expectations/Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;90</td>
<td><strong>Exceptional.</strong> Demonstrates a very strong grasp of subject matter and underlying substantive material. Few or no technical errors (typos, spelling, grammar). Clarity in writing style; coherent structure and flow; a degree of true originality; appropriate reference to source materials; paper presents a coherent and persuasive point of view.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 to 90</td>
<td><strong>Very good.</strong> Demonstrates a strong grasp of subject matter and underlying substantive material. Few technical errors; appropriate reference to source material; some attempt at originality; perhaps a few unreferenced points; paper well structured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 80</td>
<td><strong>Good.</strong> Demonstrates solid understanding of material; few technical errors; well referenced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 70</td>
<td><strong>Satisfactory.</strong> Demonstrates a basic understanding of material; some technical errors; some structure; some missing or inappropriate references.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 65</td>
<td><strong>Marginal.</strong> An unacceptable number of technical errors; little attempt to present coherent viewpoint; demonstrates a weak or superficial understanding of material; inappropriate or missing references; lack of structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 50</td>
<td><strong>Inadequate</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Handing in assignments: All assignments must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word (or equivalent) format with LEARN. If a student encounters a problem with LEARN, it is their responsibility to 1) email the instructor before the submission deadline, and 2) submit the paper in hard copy before the start of class. By submitting an assignment to LEARN, you are agreeing to the following:
• You have properly referenced and footnoted all ideas, words or other intellectual property from other sources used in the completion of this assignment.

• You have included a proper bibliography, which includes acknowledgement of all sources used to complete this assignment.

• The assignment was completed by your own efforts. You did not collaborate with any other person for ideas or answers (with the exception of any group project)

• This is the first time you have submitted this assignment or essay (either partially or entirely) for academic evaluation.

Late and/or missed assignments: Late submissions will be penalized 10% per day unless you have made arrangements with the instructor in advance of the deadline. Failure to make a submission or a submission that is five days late or more will receive a grade of zero. An assessment of lateness will be based on the time stamp produced through LEARN.
Faculty and University Requirements

**Academic integrity**: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.]

**Grievance**: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Discipline**: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

**Appeals**: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals.

**Note for students with disabilities**: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

**Turnitin.com**: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.

**Intellectual Property**: Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or used by the instructor with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student’s educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner’s permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.
Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

**Recording lectures:** Use of recording devices during lectures is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor of the course. If allowed, video recordings may only include images of the instructor and not fellow classmates.

Posting of videos or links to the video to any website, including but not limited to social media sites such as: facebook, twitter, etc., is strictly prohibited.

**Mental Health:** The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments/Schools consider students’ well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and / or emotional. Please note that help is available. Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services [http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services) is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

**Religious Observances:** Students need to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

**Unclaimed assignments:** Unclaimed assignments will be retained until one month after term grades become official in Quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW’s confidential shredding procedures.

**Communications with Instructor Teaching Assistants:** All communication with students must be through either the student’s University of Waterloo email account or via Learn. If a student emails the instructor from a personal account they will be requested to resend the email using their personal University of Waterloo email account.

**LEARN:** Users can login to LEARN via: [http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/](http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/) using your WatIAM/Quest username and password.