 ERS 675 **Economics and Sustainability – Reading course syllabus**

**University of Waterloo - Course Outline Fall 2016**

**Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Clapp; Office: EV2 2016; Email: jclapp @ uwaterloo.ca**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

**Class Meeting Times: (can we say Thursdays 2-3:30 for most of rest of the term?)**

**Short Course Description:** Advanced introduction to a range of approaches to the relationship between the global political economy, the environment and sustainability.

**Objectives:** The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to various approaches to the intersection of global political economy and sustainability. The course will provide students with the basic tools and concepts needed to enable them to analyze issues and problems at the interface of the political economy and the environment from a range of viewpoints.

**Detailed Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to various approaches to political economy and questions of environmental quality and sustainability. The course starts with an examination of the political history of the assumptions that underlie conventional (neoclassical) economic approaches to the environment, as compared with the assumptions that guide the relatively more recent fields of ecological economics and green economics. We will then examine key issues, debates and policies to address them, such as economic growth, natural resources, pollution and market failures such as climate change. Measures of ‘progress’ and ‘prosperity’ will also be examined, comparing conventional measures (of wealth and growth) with those that incorporate environmental components, and we will discuss their usefulness – both conceptually as well as in a policy setting. The political economy of carbon markets will then be examined in more depth as an example of economic policy responses to global environmental problems.

**Requirements and evaluation**: The course mark will be determined on the basis of the following items:

1. **Reaction Papers**. You are to write four 1 page (single-spaced) “reaction papers”. This paper should outline some of your reactions to the readings assigned for that specific week and should NOT just be a summary. Please try to develop an argument regarding the topic we are studying that week, and try to incorporate the following in your reading response: 1) What information, ideas or content in the readings did you find helpful or useful to your thinking and in what way? (i.e. did the readings provide new information or concepts that made you think about these issues in a different way? Or did they reinforce your thinking on that topic?) 2) What information, ideas or content in the readings did you disagree with or take issue with, and why? You will be called upon to present your editorial comments to the class. The schedule for reading responses will be determined in the first class. These papers are worth 10% each (40% together).

1. **Book Review Essay**. An extended book review essay between 10-12 double-spaced pages in length is due in December. A list of suggested books is included below (you may choose a different book, but it must be approved by the course instructor). The first section of the essay (which can be no more than one third of the total length of the essay) must describe the central argument of the book. The rest of the essay must evaluate the book’s arguments in the context of the readings and discussions of the course. You must make reference to the course readings in the essay. You may also find it helpful to consult some additional sources in writing the book review.  This assignment is worth 30% of your mark.
2. **Presentation**. You will be asked to present your book review essay in a short presentation during the class conference at the end of term. This presentation is worth 10% of your mark.
3. **Meeting participation**. Good participation is not simply a matter of speaking out in class. It involves contributions that demonstrate your engagement and connection with the course materials. This might include showing that you are making connections between different parts of the course materials and also between course materials and current events and external readings, as well as demonstration that you have carefully weighed the arguments and viewpoints expressed in readings and in class and have incorporated them into your own analysis. Each week, you are expected to have read and thought about that week’s readings, and come prepared to discuss your thoughts and ideas with your classmates in a constructive and respectful manner. Participation is worth 20% of your mark.
4. **Grant Proposal** – the practical skill building portion of the course will focus on grant-writing. You are to attend the BSIA grant proposal workshop and produce a draft of your SSHRC application proposal.

**Marks Breakdown:**

Reaction Papers 40% (10% each)

Essay  25%

Presentation 10%

Meeting Participation 20%

Grant Proposal 5%

**Textbooks:**

The following three books should be available at the UW bookstore for purchase. A copy of each will also be placed on reserve in the library.

Molly Scott Cato, *Environment and Economy* (Routledge, 2011)

Tim Jackson, *Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet* (Earthscan, 2009)

There will be additional readings in the first part of the course, drawn from articles freely available through the library or internet.

**Schedule of Topics and Readings:**

**Economy Meets Environment: Survey of the Terrain**

Cato, *Environment and Economy*, chapters 1-7 (pages 1-116)

Watch **Film:** Small is Beautiful: Impressions of Fritz Schumacher (1978) (30 minutes) – <http://www.nfb.ca/film/small_is_beautiful> (watch on your own time)

**Issues and Policy 1: Economic Growth, Resource Use and Pollution**

Cato, *Environment and Economy* chapters 8-11 (pages 119-182)

Daly, Herman, “Economics in a Full World”, *Scientific American*, September 2005, pp.100-107.

***And please skim the following two publications (if you are writing a reaction paper this week, you can focus on either the Cato chapters, or the following two readings):***

UNEP, 2011. “Introduction: Setting the Stage for a Green Economy Transition”, in *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, at  
<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/88/documents/ger/1.0_Introduction.pdf>

Barbara Unmüßig, Wolfgang Sachs and Thomas Fatheuer. 2012. “Critique of the Green Economy: Toward Social and Environmental Equity”, at <http://www.in.boell.org/downloads/PDF2858.pdf>

**Issues and Policy 2: The Global Economy and Socio-metabolic Transitions**

Cato, *Environment and Economy*, chapter 12-13 (pages 183-214)

Roberts, J Timmons and Bradley Parks, “Ecologically Unequal Exchange, Ecological Debt and Climate Justice”, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, 50 (3-4), 2009, pp.385-409.

Haberl, Helmut, Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Fridolin Krausmann, Joan Martinez Alier and Verena Winiwarter. “A Socio‐metabolic Transition Towards Sustainability? Challenges for Another Great Transformation” *Sustainable Development* 19 (1), pp.1-14.

Optional (depending on your background – an excellent overview): Gallagher, Kevin, “Economic Globalization and the Environment”, *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 2009, pp. 279-304.

**Issues and Policy 3: Do We Need to Price Nature to Save it? Payments for Ecological Services and Offsets**

Cato, *Environment and Economy*, chapters 14-15 (pages 215-241)

Costanza, Robert, Rudolf de Groot, Paul Sutton, Sander van der Ploeg, Sharolyn J. Anderson, Ida Kubiszewski, Stephen Farber, and R. Kerry Turner. 2014. “Changes in the Global Value of Ecosystem Services.” *Global Environmental Change* 26 (May): 152–58.

Hein, Lars. 2013. “Payments for Ecosystem Services and the Financing of Global Biodiversity Conservation.” *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 5(1): 87–93.

At least one of (depending on your interests):

Rival, Laura. 2010. “Ecuador’s Yasuni-ITT Initiative The Old and New Values of Petroleum.” *Ecological Economics* 70(2): 358–65.

Kallis, Giorgos, Erik Gómez-Baggethun, and Christos Zografos. 2013. “To Value or Not to Value? That Is Not the Question.” *Ecological Economics* 94 (October): 97–105.

**Financialization of Nature**

Three of the following (depending on your interests)

Sullivan, Sian. “Banking Nature? The Spectacular Financialisation of Environmental Conservation.” *Antipode* 45(1): 198–217.

Bracking, Sarah. “How Do Investors Value Environmental Harm/Care? Private Equity Funds, Development Finance Institutions and the Partial Financialization of Nature‐based Industries.” *Development and Change* 43(1): 271–93.

Lohmann, Larry. 2010. “Uncertainty Markets and Carbon Markets: Variations on Polanyian Themes.” *New Political Economy* 15(2): 225–54.

Isakson, S. Ryan. 2013. “The Financialization of Food: A Political Economy of the Transformation of Agro-food Supply Chains.” <http://www.iss.nl/fileadmin/ASSETS/iss/Research_and_projects/Research_networks/ICAS/ICAS_Review_Paper_5_Isakson.pdf>

Bayliss, Kate. 2014. “The Financialization of Water.” *Review of Radical Political Economics* 46 (3): 292–307.

**Reconsidering Prosperity**

Jackson, *Prosperity without Growth*, chapters 1-12

**Film**: The Economics of Happiness

**Final Meeting:**

Present book review

**Possible Books for Review:**

Bill McKibben, *Deep Economy* (2008)

Donella Meadows et al, *Limits to Growth* *30 year update* (2004)

Edward Barbier and Anil Markandya, *A New Blueprint for a Green Economy* (2012)

Gus Speth, *The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability*  (2009)

Herman Daly and John Cobb, *For the Common Good* (1994)

Herman Daly, *Beyond Growth* (1997)

Herman Daly, *Steady-State Economics* (1991)

Jeffrey Sachs, *Common Wealth* (2009)

Joan Martinez-Alier, *Environmentalism of the Poor* (2002)

John Gowdy, *Coevolutionary Economics: The Economy, Society and the Environment* (1994)

John Greer, *The Wealth of Nature* (2011)

Joseph E. Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and Jean-Paul Fitoussim, *Mismeasuring Our Lives: Why GDP Doesn't Add Up* (2010)

Juliet Schor, *Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth* (2010)

Karen Litfin, *Ecovillages* (2014)

Michael Grubb, *Planetary Economics: Energy, Climate Change and the Three Domains of Sustainable Development* (2013)

Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate* (2014)

Paul Collier, *The Plundered Planet* (2010)

Paul Hawkin, Amory Lovins and Hunter Lovins, *Natural Capitalism* (2010 edn)

Paul Hawkin, *The* *Ecology of Commerce* (Revised Edn) (2010)

Peter Christoff and Robyn Eckersley, *Globalization and the Environment* (2013)

Peter Dauvergne and Jane Lister, *Eco-Business: A Big-Brand Takeover of Sustainability* (2012)

Peter Dauvergne, *The Shadows of Consumption* (2008)

Peter Dauvergne, *Environmentalism of the Rich* (2016)

Peter Newell and Matthew Paterson, *Climate Capitalism: Global Warming and the Transformation of the Global Economy* (2010)

Peter Newell, *Globalization and the Environment* (2012)

Peter Victor, *Managing without Growth* (2008)

Raj Patel, *The Value of Nothing* (2010)

Robert Nadeau, *The Environmental Endgame: Mainstream Economics, Ecological Disaster, and Human Survival* (2006)

Robin Broad and John Cavanagh, *Development Redefined: How the Market Met its Match* (2008)

Sasha Breger Bush, *Derivatives and Development* (2012)

Stephen Macekura*, Of Limits and Growth: The Rise of Global Sustainable Development in the Twentieth Century* (2015)

Thomas Princen, *The Logic of Sufficiency* (2005)

Thomas Princen, *Treading Softly: Paths to Ecological Order* (2010)

Wolfgang Sachs, *Planet Dialectics: Explorations in Environment and Development* (2015)

E.F. Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful* (1975)

**Administrative Notes:**

Unclaimed assignments will be retained for (two months after term grades become official in quest).  After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW’s [confidential shredding procedures](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infostor/Confidential%20Shredding%20procedures%202008.htm).

* + 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. www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/
  + Students who are unsure what constitutes an academic offence are requested to visit the on-line tutorial at http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/
  + Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, 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 the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.
  + Religious Observances: Student needs 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.
  + **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, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.
  + **Discipline *(as noted above under 2a)*:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, 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, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties, check Guidelines for Assessment of Penalties, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm)
  + **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) [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)