
**ECON 31100: ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS (CRN # 20890, SECTION 1, DISTANCE LEARNING)
FALL 2023**

Instructor: Dr. Amlan Mitra
Online Meeting: BRIGHTSPACE (August 21 – December 16, 2023)
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<https://www.pnw.edu/history-philosophy-politics-economics/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION (University Catalog):

This course provides an overview of environmental issues and legislations in the United States. Emphasis is placed on understanding and analyzing environmental problems applying basic principles of economics. This course explores the causes of environmental problems and evaluates the various policy instruments that are often used to address them at the international, national, state, and local levels. **PREREQUISITE:** One of the undergraduate level courses: **ECON 10100; ECON 21000 ECON 25100** (Minimum Grade of C)

COURSE GOAL:

The overall goal of this course is to focus on all the different facets of the connection between environmental quality and the economic behavior of individuals and groups of people. With this knowledge, students should be able to recognize and analyze situations pertaining to environmental issues. Simply stated, you will learn the economic way of dealing with environmental problems by examining and illustrating how economic tools can be used to assess environmental problems and evaluate environmental policies. The course will complement the theory with real-world applications.

We will use BRIGHTSPACE - Purdue Learning Platform. If you need help and training in BRIGHTSPACE, please follow this link below:

<https://purdue.brightspace.com/d21/le/news/6823/193896/view>

To learn how to personalize your account settings in BRIGHTSPACE, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYXbSBZ-VxI>

REQUIRED TEXT:

Title: Environmental Economics

Edition: 8th

Author: Barry Field and Martha K Field

Publisher: McGraw Hill, 2021

Purchase Options:

eBook: <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/environmental-economics-barry-c-field-v9781260736229>

Rental - ISBN:9781260243062

Loose leaf: ISBN: 9781260993172

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Examine and analyze the market system, the externalities causing market failure, and the mechanisms to correct for externalities.
2. Explain and apply the basics of cost-benefit analysis and the problems associated with their measurements.
3. Examine the conventional and economic solutions to environmental problems.
4. Examine and analyze U.S. policies on air pollution, water pollution, solid & hazardous wastes, and global environment.
5. Apply economic tools for evaluating environmental policies.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Completing assigned readings, homework assignments, and a term paper are the basic requirements to meet our five learning objectives. Each of these five learning objectives will be assessed in the following way:

Learning Objective	Assessment Tools
1	HW
2	HW
3	HW
4	HW
5	Term Paper

STUDENT EVALUATION POLICIES:

GRADING POLICY: Completing all online assignments, including HW Assignments, Quizzes, Term Paper, and Interactive Online Participation are the basic requirements. The student's overall percentage score is based upon the following weights:

HW Assignments: 400 points

Term Paper: 100 points

A+: 485 – 500;	A: 465 – 484;	A-: 450 – 464
B+: 435 – 449;	B: 415 – 334;	B-: 400 – 414
C+: 385 – 399;	C: 365 – 384;	C-: 350 – 364
D+: 335 – 349;	D: 315 – 334;	D-: 300 – 314
F: Below 300		

Non-Graded Activities

Non-graded activities include:

- Course contract
- Syllabus activity
- Interactive learning assignments
- Attendance and class engagement as per attendance policy

EXTRA CREDIT - (Maximum of 25 points)

Extra credit will be based on student participation in the non-graded activities. You can receive a maximum of 25 points based on your percentage of the total score of these non-graded activities.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES & ASSIGNMENTS

You MUST complete all learning activities through BRIGHTSPAC. No other submissions will be accepted. The learning activities include reading the text chapters and the supplementary course materials. The eBook is an excellent source for reading the chapters. The purpose of these learning activities and assignments is to solidify your understanding of the lecture materials and prepare you to be successful in this course. Please check the “**Course Schedule**” section of this syllabus for chapter assignment. It is your responsibility to check the due dates for all the assignments. You are strongly encouraged to submit the assignments before the due dates. Please **DO NOT** wait till the last moment to submit these assignments. This way, you will have a chance to submit at a later time but before the due date and time if there are any online connection problems.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be homework assignments every week from the assigned chapters. These assignments will be timed and will include questions in various formats, such as, multiple choice, true-false, essay, graphing, worksheets, problems, discussion and essay questions. **Due: Sunday midnight (11:59 PM CST).**

INTERACTIVE LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS – FLIPGRID APP:

We will have interactive learning assignments (ILA). You will use FLIPGRID app (downloading instructions will be provided in BrightSpace) to participate in these assignments. These are aligned to the cognitive levels of the learning outcomes, including independent learning skills. These would include understanding how cultural background influence the student learning process; building intellectual learning capacity through interactive individual and group discussions; concept maps and integrating a variety of visualization tools in online presentations asking students to use the visual tools to answer questions or use concept maps to prepare for exams. The goal is to have a growth mindset to become independent learners during the learning experience. We will build mutual trust and confidence by engaging in culturally responsive learning experience through understanding complex concepts, principles, and ideas and the important relationships between them.

TERM PAPER:

The topic and the guidelines for the term paper will be posted on BrightSpace.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance Policy: Attendance and engagement in the course will be defined and tracked in different ways. Meaningful engagement in this course will include reviewing the learning materials, participating in learning activities, completing assignments, and interacting with classmates. Logging into the course homepage in BrightSpace alone does not constitute meaningful engagement in a course. You are expected to actively engage in interactive learning.

Assignment Policy: Please follow the course contract in meeting the guidelines to complete all assignments.

Make-up Policy: There are **NO MAKE-UPS** available because all assignments will be posted at least a week ahead of the due dates.

OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

[Honor Code](#)¹ [Academic Dishonesty Policy](#)² [Classroom Civility Policies](#)³

Students with Disabilities:

“Students who may need accommodations to address barriers caused by documented disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act need to register with the Disability Access Center (DAC) to receive accommodations. To request and receive accommodations, students schedule an appointment with the DAC to initiate review and approval of supporting documentation showing their disability, the barriers it causes, and the recommended accommodations. If documentation is approved, the DAC will email a letter to the student’s current semester faculty members outlining the accommodations needed to ensure accessibility. Accommodations will be provided from the date the letter originates from the DAC. It is important to register as soon as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. The DAC is located at the Hammond campus in the Student Union & Library Building (SUL) 341 and Westville in the Technology Building (TECH) 101. The DAC can be reached at (219) 989-2455 or emailing: dac@pnw.edu. [DAC website](#)⁴.

Student Mental Health and Wellbeing:

“Purdue University Northwest is committed to supporting and advancing the mental health and well-being of our PNW students. During the course of their academic careers, students often experience personal challenges that contribute to barriers in learning, such as drug/alcohol problems, strained relationships, chronic worrying, persistent sadness or loss of interest in enjoyable activities, family conflict, grief and loss, domestic violence, difficulty concentrating, problems with organization, procrastination and/or lack of motivation. Students also sometimes come to college with a history of learning difficulties (e.g., any form of special education), experience difficulties succeeding in a particular subject (e.g., math, reading), or have experienced some form of trauma be it emotional or physical (e.g., head injury). These mental health concerns can lead to diminished academic performance and can interfere with daily life activities. If you or someone you know has a history of mental health concerns or if you are unsure and would like a consultation, a variety of confidential services are available. The Counseling Center is located in Gyte 05 in Hammond and TECH 101 in Westville. You can also reach us at (219) 989-2366 or on [the Counseling website](#),⁵ [National Suicide Prevention Hotline](#)⁶ at (800) 273-TALK or on the web.

Non-Discrimination:

Purdue University Northwest prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. Any student who believes they have witnessed or experienced discrimination are encouraged to report the incident to the Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion in Lawshe 231, Hammond or call (219) 989-2337 or in Schwarz 25, Westville or call (219) 785-5545. Additional information can be found on the [Diversity website](#).⁷

¹ www.pnw.edu/dean-of-students/honor-code

² www.pnw.edu/dean-of-students/purdue-university-northwest-academic-integrity-policy/

³ www.pnw.edu/dean-of-students/toward-a-model-of-community-civility-student-guide-12006/

⁴ www.pnw.edu/dac

⁵ www.pnw.edu/counseling/

⁶ suicidepreventionlifeline.org

⁷ <http://www.pnw.edu/diversity>

Emergency Preparedness:

“An information sheet, with instructions for various types of possible emergencies, is posted in each room on campus. These emergencies include criminal activity, severe weather, fire, medical emergencies, and noises sounding like gunshots. Students are strongly encouraged to review this instruction sheet carefully and acquaint themselves with these important guidelines. PNW will hold annual drills to prepare for emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter and fire. It is strongly encouraged that all students participate in these drills in an effort to strengthen our emergency preparedness efforts.”

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTER
1	8/21 – 8/27	Introduction to Environmental Economics	1
2	8/28 – 9/3	Economy and Environment Relationship	2
3	9/4 – 9/10	Benefits and Costs – Demand & Supply	3
4	9/11 – 9/17	Markets, Externalities & Public Goods	4
5	9/18 – 9/24	Economics of Environmental Quality	5
6	9/25 – 10/1	Types of Environmental Analysis	6
7	10/2 – 10/8	Benefits Costs Analysis – Measuring Benefits	7
8	10/9 – 10/15	Benefits Costs Analysis – Measuring Costs	8
9	10/16 – 10/22	Criteria for Evaluating Environmental Policies	9
10	10/23 – 10/29	Decentralized Environmental Policies	10
11	10/30 – 11/5	Command and Control Policies	11
12	11/6 – 11/12	Incentive-Based Policies	12, 13
13	11/13 – 11/19	Pollution Control Policies Air, Water, & Hazardous Wastes Term Paper Outline Due	14 - 16
14	11/20 – 11/26	Global & Local Environmental Issues	17 - 18
15	11/27 – 12/3	Term Paper Literature Review Due	
16	12/10	Term Paper Final Report Due Sunday midnight	