

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: ENVS/POSC 107
Course Title: Economy, Society and the Environment

Year: 2020-2021
Credit Hours: 3

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Course Description

This course is a survey of environmental problems taken from an economic standpoint. It will analyze political and economic strategies for formulating sustainable resource management. Potential topics include renewable energy, resource scarcity, ecosystem goods and services, international trade, and globalization. ENVS 107 fulfills the SUNY General Education Social Sciences requirement. Prerequisites: RDNG 116 and MATH 090 if required by placement testing; prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 100. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Spring semester.

Course Context/Audience

This course is a survey of environmental and social problems from an economic standpoint. The course is useful to students seeking careers involving sustainability, environmental policy/decision-making, green entrepreneurship and students who have an interest in global/social awareness.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

- Writing: WC College level writing skills are required. See course co-requisites or pre-requisites.
Math: M2 Completed MATH 090 (if needed) - Course requires only the use of basic mathematical skills.
Reading: R4 Before taking this course, students must satisfactorily complete RDNG 116 or have assessment indicating that no reading course was required.

Course Goals

1. Students will gain an understanding of the basic vocabulary, principles, and theories of ecological economics.
2. Students will acquire an awareness of major environmental, economic and social issues.
3. Students will learn ways to blend environmental considerations with economic concerns.

Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Develop basic skills in applying the analytical tools of ecological economics to formulate policy and management strategies for natural resources.	30%
Gain a rudimentary understanding of how to economically value nature's goods and services	30%
Study models of real world approaches that blend environmental considerations with economic concerns.	40%

General Education Objectives/Emphasis

GENERAL EDUCATION GOAL/OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE GOAL/OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>CRITICAL THINKING</p> <p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information ➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions ➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others 	<p>A portion of the assessment should involve the analysis of economic theory and application from the perspective of environmental issues.</p> <p>Students will learn how economists, businesses and environmentalists use models and data to analyze and solve real world issues.</p> <p>Both economic and environmental literacy are essential for understanding current domestic and international policy decisions.</p> <p>Discussions are crucial for this goal. Current or pending environmental and economic policies are useful areas for discussion.</p>
<p>SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live. ➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences. 	<p>A major focus of this course is looking at how market forces and environmental scarcity shape consumer choice, government regulation and international politics.</p> <p>A major focus of this course is studying how individual actions as directed by market forces are affecting social and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Both objectives may be achieved through discussion, handouts, videos and current news articles.</p>

Instructional Methods

Lectures: Lectures are an important way to reiterate and further explain key topics from the book. It is useful to supplement lectures with topical news feeds, podcasts or videos that incorporate topics in an applied setting.

Discussions: A portion of classroom time should be devoted to discussion so that surrounding social and environmental issues can be thoroughly analyzed.

Assignments: Assignments should be given in the form of chapter exercises and topical projects relating environmental economics to current business models and practices.

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Exams	50-100%
Assignments	0-40%
Projects	0-40%
Attendance/class participation	0-10%

Text(s)

Anderson, David. *Environmental Economics and Natural Resource Management* (U.S.A.: Thomson South-Western, 2004). – Optional

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Farley, Joshua, Erickson, Jon D. and Herman E. Daly. *Ecological Economics: A Workbook for Problem-Based Learning* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2005 - Optional)

Bibliography

- Acheson, James M. "The Lobster Fiefs Revisited: Economic and Ecological Effects of Territoriality in Maine Lobster Fishing," in *The Question of the Commons: The Culture and Ecology of Communal Resources*, ed. B. McCay and J. Acheson. (Tucson, University of Arizona Press, 1987).
- Ashworth, William. *The Economy of Nature* (U.S.A.: Houghton Mifflin, 1995).
- Berry, Wendell. "The Idea of a Local Economy," *Orion Magazine*, Winter 2001.
- Brown, Lester R. *Eco-Economy: Building and Economy for the Earth* (U.S.A.: W. W. Norton & Company, 2001).
- Callan, Scott J. and Janet M. Thomas. *Environmental Economics and Management: Theory, Policy and Applications*, 5th ed. (Canada: Cengage, 2010).
- Costanza, Robert et al. "Influential publications in ecological economics: a citation analysis," *Ecological Economics* 50(2004): 261-92.
- Davidson, Eric A. *You Can't Eat GNP: Economics as if Ecology Mattered* (Cambridge, MA: Perseus, 2000).
- Daly, Herman and Holm-Mueller, K. *Ecological Economics and Sustainable Development: selected essays of Herman Daly*. (U.S.A.: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2008).
- Daly, Herman E. *Toward a Steady-State Economy*, (San Francisco: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1973).
- _____ & Holm-Mueller, K. *Ecological Economics and Sustainable Development: selected essays of Herman Daly*. (U.S.A.: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2008).
- Friedman, Thomas. *Hot Flat and Crowded*, (U.S.A.: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2008).
- Gordon, H. Scott. "The Economic Theory of a Common-Property Resource: The Fishery," *Journal of Political Economy* 62 (1954)
- Hardin, Garret, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science* 162 (1968): 1243-48.
- _____ and John Baden, eds. *Managing the Commons* (San Francisco: Freeman, 1977).
- Hawken, Paul. *The Ecology of Commerce* (New York: HarperBusiness, 1993).
- _____. *Natural Capitalism* (New York: Little Brown and Company, 1999).
- Ikerd, John E. *Sustainable Capitalism: A Matter of Common Sense* (U.S.A.: Kumarian Press, 2005).
- Loucks, O. and Homer Erekson. *Sustainability Perspectives for Resources and Business*. (Lewis Publishing, 1998).
- Ma, Chunbo and David I. Stern. "Environmental and ecological economics: A citation analysis," *Ecological Economics* 58 (2006): 491-506.
- McKibben, Bill. *Deep Economy* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2007).
- Miller, Tyler G. *Living in the Environment*, 16th ed. (Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole, 2008).
- Ostrom, Elinor. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990).
- Sagoff, Mark. *The Economy of the Earth* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988).
- Schumacher, E.F. *Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered* (Harper Collins, 1989).
- Starke, Linda, ed. *State of the World*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company). This is an excellent series of annual reports on progress toward a sustainable society, runs from 1984 to present.
- Stroup, Richard L. and John A. Baden. *Natural Resources: Bureaucratic Myths and Environmental Management* (San Francisco: Pacific Research for Public Policy Research, 1983).

Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual

No resources specified

Electronic

Journal of Ecological Economics (available on Elsevier: <http://www.elsevier.com>)

The Economist - <http://www.economist.com/>

Planet Money - <http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/>

The Triple Pundit - <http://www.triplepundit.com/>

Other

The teacher is encouraged to incorporate daily news events as a way of keeping students up to date on current environmental and economic issues. This is helpful in keeping the course timely and in touch with local as well as global concerns.