



**Course Name:** Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy

**Course Number:** AEC 250

**Credits:** 3 Credits

#### **Course Description**

Examines how economic forces and social institutions cause environmental degradation and help build management solutions. Explains key economic concepts for valuing environmental resources and evaluating the trade-offs of alternative management approaches from private markets to regulation. Applies the concepts and theories to topical environmental issues such as water pollution and conserving biodiversity. (Bacc Core Course) (Prerequisite: MTH 111 or equivalent is recommended)

#### **Baccalaureate Core**

This course meets the OSU Baccalaureate Core requirements of *Social Processes and Institutions*, which are as follows:

1. Use theoretical frameworks to interpret the role of the individual within social process and institutions.
2. Analyze current social issues and place them in historical context(s).
3. Critique the nature, value, and limitations of the basic methods of the social sciences.

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**PREREQS:** MTH 111 or equivalent is recommended.

Baccalaureate Core course Attributes: Core, Pers, Soc Proc & Inst

*This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.*

#### **Communication**

Please post all course-related questions in the Q&A Discussion, which is available in Canvas, so the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Please send an email to your instructor, me (beau.olen@oregonstate.edu), for matters of a personal nature. **I will respond within 24 hours to course related inquiries received Monday-Thursday, and will respond within 48 hours for course related inquiries received Friday-Sunday. I strive to return your graded work within five days of the due date.**

#### **Required Materials**

Berck, Peter, and Gloria Helfand. 2010. *The Economics of the Environment*. Prentice Hall.  
There are digital versions of the textbook (link: <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/product/Economics-of-the-Environment-CourseSmart-eTextbook/9780131582972.page>)

**NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the [OSU Bookstore website](#). Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.**

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to verbally, mathematically, and graphically:

1. Explain introductory market equilibrium concepts,
2. Explain introductory consumer theory and production theory, and market efficiency.
3. Analyze contemporary environmental issues and policy by applying introductory microeconomic theory; including externalities, environmental regulation, and public goods.

### **Learning Activities and Extra Credit**

#### ***Lectures, Required Readings, and Videos***

The lectures, required readings, and videos are not substitutes for each other; students are expected to review all of them because they might cover different material. Lectures are used to explain the most important concepts, provide examples, answer questions, and in particular, to review mathematical and graphical derivation of concepts.

#### ***Homework***

Homework consists of problems/essays and is available in Canvas. You will download the homework, complete it and upload the completed file to Canvas. Any graphing or handwritten materials will need to be scanned or photographed into a digital form (**preferably Word or PDF files**) and submitted with your homework file. Homework is due by midnight on the due date. Answer keys for the homework will be posted on Canvas; therefore **late homework will NOT be accepted**.

#### ***Quizzes***

The topics in this course are organized into sections and units. There are three sections and ten topics (see Course Schedule below). Quizzes are offered at the end of each unit. These are for self-assessment. Upon submission of your answers you will receive immediate scores and answers – these **DO NOT** count toward your final course grade.

#### ***Exams***

Exams are timed and are not proctored. Canvas automatically submits quizzes/exams once the time expires. Any graphing or handwritten materials will need to be scanned or photographed into an electronic form (**preferably Word or PDF files**) and uploaded to Canvas with your exam. For the midterm exam and the final exam, **you will have 2 hours to download the exam file, complete it, and upload your answers to Canvas. Make sure you include your name on the document you upload**. The midterm exam will cover topics from section 1 (Introduction) and section 2 (Consumer Behavior). The final exam will mainly cover topics from section 3 (Producer Behavior) and section 4 (Inefficiency and Solutions). Students are expected to use language, mathematics, and graphs to address the questions. Exams will emphasize material covered in the homework and the application of these concepts to current events. Late exams will not be offered, except for exams that are excused in advance by the instructor, or for extraordinary circumstances and emergencies. Students are responsible for requesting a late exam from the instructor.

#### ***Discussions***

There are two types of discussions for this course. The **Q&A Discussion** is voluntary and available for students to post questions and discuss course content. This discussion is monitored by the instructor and students are highly encouraged to assist other students with their questions. The **Topic Discussions** are graded. For the Topic Discussions, an article and discussion prompt will be provided. Students must address the prompt in two (2) well-written discussion posts before the due date to be eligible for full credit. Your initial response to the discussion prompt is considered complete if you adequately address the prompt, providing evidence and thoughtful discussion. Your second response must focus on a post from another student. Your second response is considered complete if you ask a thought-provoking question, discuss an item which you felt was particularly well made, point out a link to economic theory which you had not thought of, and/or suggest topics for further discussion.

#### ***Extra Credit Discussions***

The goal of these discussions is to provoke thought and communication about natural resource economics and policy. Students earn 0.5 points extra credit for participating in each weekly discussion (five total). Participation requires meaningful contribution to the discussion about natural resource economics and policy. A meaningful contribution could be a well-thought question, explanation, sharing information (from inside and outside of class), exploring ideas, etc.

### ***Extra Credit Survey***

There is one extra credit survey offered in this course. This survey is available in the “Modules” area of Canvas, under “Start Here”. The purpose of this extra credit survey is to gather information about students' opinions on in-person office hours. To be clear, “in-person office hours” means that the instructor and student would meet on the main OSU campus in Corvallis, Oregon. Phone and Skype appointments are NOT in-person office hours. **Your input is anonymous** (I can't link students' responses with their name), and your participation will help me to better serve all students' needs.

## Course Content and Schedule

Week (Mon. - Sun.)	Topics: Sections, Units, and other Material	Reading and Video	Assignment (due by midnight on dates listed)
<b>Weeks 1-2</b> <b>Week 1</b>	<b>Section 1:</b> Intro to Environmental Econ Introduce yourself! (see Discussions) Extra Credit Survey Math Review	Overview Video  Math Review	
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Unit 1:</b> Economics and the Environment <b>Unit 2:</b> Supply and Demand: Market Forces and the Environment	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Qz 1 & Hwk 1 – Qz 2 & Hwk 2 –
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Unit 3:</b> Markets and Market Failure: A Cause of Environmental Degradation	Chapter 3	Qz 3 & Hwk 3 – Topic Discussion 1 –
<b>Weeks 3-4</b> <b>Week 3</b>	<b>Section 2:</b> Consumer Behavior <b>Unit 4:</b> Consumer Behavior and the Environment	Overview Video Chapter 4	Qz 4 & Hwk 4 –
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Unit 5:</b> Measuring Benefits to Consumers	Chapter 5	Qz 5 & Hwk 5 – Topic Discussion 2 –
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Midterm Exam:</b> covers topics for weeks 1-4		<b>Opens</b> <b>Closes</b>
<b>Weeks 6-7</b> <b>Week 6</b>	<b>Section 3:</b> Producer Behavior <b>Unit 6:</b> From Production to Pollution	Overview Video Chapter 8	Qz 6 & Hwk 6 –
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Unit 7:</b> Production, Pollution, Output, and Prices	Chapter 9	Qz 7 & Hwk 7 – Topic Discussion 3 –
<b>Weeks 8-10</b> <b>Week 8</b>	<b>Section 4:</b> Inefficiency and Solutions <b>Unit 8:</b> Maximizing Net Benefits in the Presence of Externalities	Overview Video Chapter 10	Qz 8 & Hwk 8 –
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Unit 9:</b> Private Markets and the Environment: The Coase Theorem	Chapter 11	Qz 9 & Hwk 9 –
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Unit 10:</b> Government Policies for Environmental Protection	Chapter 12	Qz 10 & Hwk 10 – Topic Discussion 4 –
<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>Final Exam:</b> Mainly covers topics from weeks 6-10		<b>Opens</b> <b>Closes</b>

## Grading Policies

### Final Course Grade

Homework: (10 @ 4 pts)	40 pts	40%
Exams: (2 @ 20 pts)	40 pts	40%
Topic Discussions (4 @ 5 pts)	20 pts	20%
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Total	100 pts	100%
Extra Credit Survey	1 pt	
Extra Credit Discussion	2.5 pts	

### Evaluation of Student Performance

A 92-100	B+ 88-89.9	C+ 78-79.9	D+ 68-69.9	F 59.9 and below
A- 90-91.9	B 82-87.9	C 72-77.9	D 62-67.9	
	B- 80-81.9	C- 70-71.9	D- 60-61.9	

I reserve the right to adjust/curve the final grades upward if deemed necessary.

### Pre-grading

The instructor will not review and comment on students' work (e.g., written assignments) before the due date, because there is not enough time to do this for all students. Of course, the instructor welcomes questions and discussions about the course material.

### Incomplete Grade

**Students are responsible for requesting an incomplete (I) grade.** Incomplete grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible (in other words, everything but the final exam). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please take a moment to read [OSU's Incomplete Grade Policy](#).

### Tutoring

[NetTutor](#) is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. NetTutor can be accessed on the left-hand panel in the course's Canvas site.

### Technical Assistance

This course will be delivered via Canvas where you will interact with classmates and the instructor. In Canvas you can access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the [Ecampus Course Demo](#). For technical assistance, please visit [Ecampus Technical Help](#). For 24/7 support for courses offered in Canvas, click the Help link in the upper right corner of any Canvas course site. Or, call the Canvas Support Hotline at 844-329-3084. You may also find helpful answers in the [Canvas Student Guide](#).

If you experience computer difficulties (e.g., downloading a browser or logging into the course) contact the OSU Computer Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email [osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu](mailto:osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu) or visit the [OSU Computer Helpdesk](#) online.

- [GETTING STARTED](#)

[Canvas Login Information](#) - <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/start/canvas-login.htm?expand=yes>

### OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching

Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form

will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in to "Student Online Services" to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.

## **Course Policies**

### ***Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities***

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and [Disability Access Services \(DAS\)](#), with accommodations approved through DAS. **Students are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations.** Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

### ***Expectations for Student Conduct***

Student conduct is governed by the university's policies, as explained in the [Office of Student Conduct: Information and Regulations](#).

### ***Conduct in this Online Classroom***

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the [university's regulations regarding civility](#).

### ***Academic Integrity***

Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit [Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](#), or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

OAR 576-015-0020 (2) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty:

a) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.

b) It includes:

(i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.

(ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

(iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

(iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

(v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

c) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.