

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 340:
Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

Trimester Two 2011

COURSE OUTLINE

Course lecturers

Paul Calcott RH 324 463-6585 paul.calcott@vuw.ac.nz (Course coordinator)

Yiğit Sağlam RH 312 463-9989 yigit.saglam@vuw.ac.nz

Lectures: GBLT1 Mon, Tue 1:40-2:30 11 July - 11 Oct

Tutorials: RWW222 Mon 4:40-5:30 or Tue 2:40-3:30 every second week

Office hours: Please email to arrange a time

The **course content** covers results of environmental and resource economics, and a discussion of a variety of examples. There is a list of topics on page 3 below.

Assessment will take a variety of forms. You will be asked to write short explanations, to interpret and construct theoretical diagrams and to solve simple mathematical problems. With respect to the mathematics, we will assume that you have a basic knowledge of partial differentiation. If you have successfully completed ECON 201, you should be in good shape.

There will be six **tutorials**. They will meet in weeks 2,4,6,8,10 and 12. Sign up for tutorials online at <http://signups.victoria.ac.nz/> from 3:00pm on Monday 11 July (following the first lecture) until 1:00pm on Friday 15 July.

The **textbook** is:

Tom Tietenberg & Lynne Lewis, *Environmental & Natural Resource Economics* 8th ed., Prentice Hall, 2009

http://wps.aw.com/aw_tietenberg_envnatrese_8/94/24125/6176112.cw/index.html

There are copies in the library: <http://victoria.lconz.ac.nz/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=707238>

Course documents, **announcements**, assignment questions and other information will also be available on the blackboard website: <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>.

Assessment:

assignment 1 15% 15 Aug, by 5:00pm

1 hour test 20% 12 Sep

assignment 2 15% 10 Oct, by 5:00pm

2 hour final exam 50% Friday 21 October - Saturday 12 November (inclusive)

Silent non-programmable calculators will be permitted in the exam.

If you enrol in this course you have to be able to attend an exam at the University at any time during the formal examination period, 21 October - 12 November.

Assignments that are late without permission will attract **penalties** of 5% points a day. They will only be assessed up to the word limit.

There are no **mandatory course requirements**.

The **expected workload** is a total of 150 hours. In addition to the lecture and tutorial times, this might include tutorial preparation of 16 hours, reviewing material for the test and exam of 80 hours and working on assignments for 20 hours.

The **course delivery** is with two 50 min lectures per week for 12 weeks, plus a 50 min tutorial in six of the weeks.

Information on **withdrawal from courses** available via:

- Withdrawal dates: Late withdrawals with Associate Dean (Students) permission (See Section 8: Withdrawals - from the Personal Courses of Study Statute)
[http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~policy.vuw.ac.nz POLICY~000000001743.pdf](http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~policy.vuw.ac.nz%20POLICY~000000001743.pdf)
- Withdrawal dates: refunds:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Learning Objectives: Students passing this course should be able to

1. comprehend and articulate the implications for socially desirable decisions of environmental externalities;
2. comprehend and articulate the principles of socially desirable decisions regarding the use of natural resources;
3. conduct valuations of environmental resources;
4. explain and appraise the resource allocation process of the Resource Management Act.

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

A **class representative** will be elected in the first class. That persons name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Links:

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>
General University Policies & Statutes: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>
Faculty of Commerce & Administration Offices: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>
Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/
AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Approximate lecture schedule

11-12 July	Introduction	TL chaps 1-2	(Yiğit)
18-19 July	Market failure and dynamic efficiency	TL chaps 4-5	(Yiğit)
25-26 July	Depletable and renewable resources	TL chap 7	(Yiğit)
01-02 Aug	Energy	TL chap 8	(Yiğit)
08-09 Aug	Water and fisheries	TL chaps 10,14	(Yiğit)
15-16 Aug	Land	TL chap 11	(Yiğit)
15 Aug	Assignment 1 due		
22-23 Aug	Midterm break		
29-30 Aug	Midterm break		
05 Sep	Foundations of valuation	TL chaps 2,3,21	(Paul)
06 Sep	Methods of valuation	TL chap 3	(Paul)
12 Sep	Discounting & climate change	TL chap 3	(Paul)
12 Sep	Midterm test		
19-20 Sep	Theory of pollution control	TL chap 15	(Paul)
26-27 Sep	Air pollution	TL chap 16,17	(Paul)
03 Oct	Transport	TL chap 18	(Paul)
04 Oct	Water pollution	TL chap 19	(Paul)
10 Oct	Assignment 2 due		
10-11 Oct	Oil spills & disasters	pp488-99,504-22	(Paul)
17 Oct	Study period begins		
21 Oct	Exam period begins		