

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	:	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Integrated Environmental Management
Programme QF Level	:	5
Course Title	:	Environmental Economics
Course Code	:	SSC3318
Department	:	Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	:	3
Contact Hours	:	39
Pre-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Medium of Instruction	:	English
Course Level	:	3

Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. Course Synopsis

In neoclassical economics, environmental issues often arise when the free market failed to address environmental costs and benefits. This course introduces the key concepts and applications of environmental economics. The reasons of market failure and the occurrence of externalities will first be discussed, followed by methods which costs and benefits of environmental goods can be valued. Finally, principles and applications of modern regulatory measures and market-oriented policy instruments will be covered. The course will feature case studies of real-world examples from governments, NGOs and the private sector.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CILO₁ Explain the nature of environmental problems with the use of concepts and theories related to environmental economics.

CILO₂ Apply the appropriate methods for valuing the environment.

CILO₃ Discuss the impacts of international trade on the global environment.

CILO₄ Evaluate the economic costs and benefits of different environmental policies.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Environmental problems, public goods and the problem of externalities	CILO _{1,2}	Lectures, tutorial discussion, in-class workshop
The economics of environmental policies and tools	CILO _{3,4}	Lectures, tutorial discussion, in-class workshop
Environmental value assessment	CILO _{2,4}	Lectures, tutorial discussion, in-class workshop
International trade and the global environment	CILO ₄	Lectures, tutorial discussion, in-class workshop
The economics of renewal and non-renewal energy	CILO ₁	Lectures, tutorial discussion, in-class workshop
Climate change and economics	CILO _{1,2,4}	Lectures, tutorial discussion, in-class workshop
Circular economy and waste management	CILO _{1,4}	Lectures, tutorial discussion, in-class workshop
Carbon emission trading	CILO _{1,4}	Lectures, tutorial discussion, in-class workshop

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
Group projects: (a) Presentation of a literature review/survey on an assigned theme under the topic environmental economics (b) Case study analysis and investigative inquiry: Students are required to submit a term essay which critically examines an issue or a case study assigned by the instructor that incorporates concepts discussed in lectures.	50	CILO _{1,2,3,4}
Exam (open book: multiple choice questions, T&F & short answer questions) To assess students' understanding on the concepts of environmental economics	35	CILO _{1,2,3,4}
Homework Questions/eLearning (individual work, three in total, 5% each).	15	CILO _{1,2,3,4}

5. Required Text(s)

Field, B. C., & Field, M. K. (2017). *Environmental economics: An introduction* (Seventh edition.). McGraw-Hill Education.

6. Recommended Readings

Hanley, N., Shogren, J., & White, B. (2013). *Introduction to Environmental Economics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Managi, S., & Kuriyama, K.. (2017). *Environmental Economics*. Oxon: Routledge.

Markandya, A., & Richardson, J. (Eds.). (2017). *The Earthscan Reader in Environmental Economics*. Oxon: Earthscan.

Managi, S. (Ed.). (2015) *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Economics in Asia*. Oxon: Routledge.

Tietenberg, T. & Lewis, L. (2020). *Environmental Economics: The Essentials*. New York: Routledge.

Thampapillai, D. J., & Ruth, M. (2019). *Environmental Economics: Concepts, Methods and Policies*. Oxon: Routledge.

7. Related Web Resources

UN Environment Programme

<https://www.unep.org/>

United States Environmental Protection Agency: Environmental Economics

<https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics>

8. Related Journals

Climate Policy

Ecological Economics

Journal of Environmental Economics and Management

Journal of Environmental Economics and Policy

9. Academic Honesty

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/00000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others

Nil.

September 2023