

## **Course Syllabus**

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### **Course Information**

**ECO 4333**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS**

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### **Professor Contact Information**

Professor L.J. Dumas  
Office: GR3.218  
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Office Hours:  
Mon 5:00P-6:00P  
Wed 7:00P-8:00P

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

ECO 2302 or instructor's permission.

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### **Course Description**

Both economics and ecology aim at understanding the functioning of highly interconnected systems in which tradeoffs among objectives are unavoidable. Environmental economics brings them together to study the ecological implications of economic growth and development, and to utilize the tools of economic theory to analyze ecological problems and suggest solutions that are efficient as well as effective

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Understand the economic benefits conveyed by the natural environment and the constraints that the ecology places on economic activity.

Learn specific techniques for determining the economic value of the services provided by the natural environment, and thus of environmental assets.

Apply economic cost-benefit analysis to environmental issues.

Raise moral and ethical issues in intergenerational equity and the determination of the social good relevant to the environmental impact of economic activity.

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## **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: A Contemporary Approach, by Jonathan M. Harris (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2006)

## **Suggested Course Materials (Strongly Recommended)**

Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World, Alan Weisman (Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 1998)

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## **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

### **I) Introduction:**

Defining ecology, economics and their intersection; conventional economics vs. ecological economics; the economic valuation approach; environmental microeconomics and macroeconomics; Commoner's Laws of ecology; dilution as a solution to pollution.

**TEXT:** Chapter 1 - Changing Perspectives on the Environment

### **II) Economic Growth and Environmental Deterioration:**

Economic growth, economic development and the quality of life; the benefits and costs of economic activity; natural capital and human-made capital; measuring economic progress; resource depletion; ecological implications population growth and change in the nature of products and processes; limits to growth.

**TEXT:** Chapter 2 – Resources, Environment and Economic Development      Chapter 7 – Ecological Economics: Basic Concepts  
Chapter 8 – National Income and Environmental Accounting

### **III) Economic Analysis of Environmental Issues:**

#### **A) Environmental Ethics and Welfare Economics:**

The concept of utility; normative ethical theories; environmental ethics; social decision-making and the pareto, Bentham and "Hicks-Kaldor compensation" criteria.

#### **READING:**

Environmental Economics and Natural Resource Management, David A Anderson (Southwestern Publishers, 2004), Chapter 5 – Morals and Motivation

#### **B) Collective (Public) Goods:**

The difference between private goods and collective (public goods; deriving market demand curves for collective goods; property rights; the global commons.

**TEXT:** Chapter 4 – Common-Property Resources and Public Goods

**C) Externalities:**

External costs; external benefits; pecuniary and nonpecuniary environmental externalities; divergent private and social benefits/costs as causes of “market failure”; the Coase theorem; the “free rider” problem; internalizing externalities.

**TEXT:** Chapter 3 – The Theory of Environmental Externalities

**D) Economic Analysis of Environmental Decision Making:**

Time allocation of depletable resources; Hotelling’s rule; cost-benefit analysis; estimating environmental costs and benefits; dealing with risk and uncertainty.

**TEXT:** Chapter 5 – Resource Allocation Over Time  
Chapter 6 – Valuing the Environment

**IV) Economics and Pollution Control:**

How much pollution is too much; marginal costs and benefits of pollution control; the “optimal” level of pollution; pollution control policies; achieving the optimal level of pollution.

**TEXT:** Chapter 16 – Pollution: Analysis and Policy

**V) Energy, Ecology and Economics:**

Energy and economic systems; engineering efficiency vs. economic efficiency; energy trends and projections; alternative energy sources; recycling; energy conservation as a response to the joint problems of energy and ecology.

**READING:**

The Conservation Response: Strategies for the Design and Operation of Energy-Using Systems, Lloyd J. Dumas (Lexington, Massachusetts: D.C. Heath and Company, 1976)

Chapter 1–Energy Conservation: Possibilities, Limits, Benefits

\* Chapter 2-Building Design and Energy Consumption

\* Chapter 5-Transportation and Energy

\* Chapter 9-Industrial Products and Processes

Chapter 11-The Conservation Response: An Overview

**TEXT:** Chapter 12 – Nonrenewable Resources: Scarcity and Abundance  
Chapter 13 – Energy: The Great Transition

**VI) Crucial Environmental Issues and New Perspectives:**

The “greenhouse effect”; implications of and policy responses to global climate change;

“globalization”, the World Trade Organization and the environment; NAFTA and the environment; industrial ecology: mimicking the cycles of nature; sustainable development.

**TEXT:** Chapter 18 – Global Climate Change  
Chapter 19 – World Trade and the Environment  
Chapter 17 – Industrial Ecology  
Chapter 20 – Institutions for Sustainable Development

**READINGS:**

Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World, Alan Weisman (Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 1998)

“Between Complacency and Panic: A Measured Approach to Climate Change Strategy”, Lloyd J. Dumas with Irene Ngugi ABD and Kruti Dholakia, ABD (September 2005)

\* Entering the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: World Development Report 1999/2000, World Bank (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), Chapter 4 - Protecting the Global Commons

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**Grading Policy**

Grading is based on two in-class, closed book exams. Each exam counts 50% of the grade. There is no graded homework and there are no required papers. Since the exams are based heavily on the material discussed in class, it will be very difficult to perform well on the exams if class attendance is poor. If your grade based on the two exams is on the boundary between two grades, good participation in class can push you to the higher grade There is no separate penalty for poor attendance.

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**Course & Instructor Policies**

Make-up exams would be allowed in extra-ordinary and unavoidable situations only. The student is required to get prior approval from the Professor. A make-up exam will typically be given in oral format at the office of the Professor, at time determined by mutual consent. There will be no special assignments and there will be no extra credit for attendance.

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**Field Trip Policies**  
**Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities**

*Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.*

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## **Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of

the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

### **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

### **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in

room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

## **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***