

ECON 240 Environmental Economics
Spring 2016

Location: Comenius 213

Time: TR 10:20-11:30

Instructor: Dr. Sonia Aziz

Office: Comenius 204

Office Hours: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. W
3:00 – 4:00 p.m. T or by appointment

Phone: 610-625-7702

Email: aziz@moravian.edu¹

I am typically on campus all day Monday through Thursday. Outside of office hours, please email so I know to expect you.

Course Content:

The theory of externalities and market failure will provide the basis for applying microeconomic concepts to the study of environmental issues. Analytical tools will be explained and applied to problems with environmental dimensions. Criteria and strategies used in the development and implementation of environmental policies will be defined and summarized. Theoretical and policy formulations will be pursued with respect to environmental issues such as air and water quality.

Course Objectives

- i) To apply microeconomic theory to the study of environmental issues.
- ii) To identify and critically evaluate economic policy issues.
- iii) To develop written and verbal skills in communicating an environmental economic perspective.

Prerequisites:

Please be aware that math and graphical analysis will be used throughout the course (lectures, exams and assignments).

Course Materials:

Required Text: Environmental Economics by Field and Field, 5e, McGraw-Hill, Irwin, Publishers, 2009.

Supplemental Readings:

The Theory of Environmental Policy by Baumol and Oates, Cambridge University Press.
Economics of the Environment: Selected Readings by Dorfman and Dorfman. Norton Publishers.
Environment and Resource Policies for the World Economy by Cooper. Brookings Institution.
Economics of the Environment by Stavins. Norton Publishers.
Selected films/Readings

¹ Please note that emails should follow protocol, which means it should include a salutation at the beginning (eg. Dear Dr. Alien) followed by a standard sign-off at the end (eg, Thanks, G. Arcturus).

Evaluation:

There will be three semester exams and a final. The final is cumulative. You must notify me BEFOREHAND if you need to reschedule an exam. If you do not take an exam on the date it is given without first making alternative arrangements, you will receive a score of zero for that exam. The class grade will be computed from grades on quizzes, participation in class discussions/debates, take home assignments, in class assignments and presentations. Moravian college policies regarding academic honesty will be enforced. Please read the **Academic Honesty Policy** that is included in the student handbook.

Assignments, Classroom Participation and Expectations:

Students are required to read scheduled chapters before coming to class. Additional readings may be distributed in class, posted on blackboard or placed on reserve in the library. Homework must be turned in on time for full credit. Regular attendance is expected. Because contribution to the classroom community is counted as part of the class grade (see below for full breakdown), regular attendance is necessary (but not sufficient) to receive full credit in this category. The use of cell phones in the classroom is not permitted. The use of laptops in the classroom (subject to need for individual accommodations - see below) is also not permitted.

Weights:	Test 1	15 %
	Test 2	20 %
	Test 3	20%
	In Focus Symposium Presentations	10%**
	Final	20%
	Class Grade*	15 %

*Based on attendance, participation (offering thoughtful answers on a regular basis), assignments, quizzes. Class participation and quizzes count as 5% of the class grade; assignments and class presentations count for 10% of the class grade.

** Special Student Panels held April 5-6

Test Grading Policy:

Test questions are short answer (analytical, definitional), multiple choice and essay questions (analytical and/or writing intensive). Sometimes a student will disagree with a grade assigned to particular question. This is a legitimate concern and will be addressed in the following procedure. To have an answer reevaluated, the student must submit a *written* request for a reevaluation. This request should identify the question in dispute, provide a written explanation why the student feels the question was incorrectly evaluated, and propose a suggested remedy. It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for a course.

Grading Scale:

A (92-100)	C (72-77.9)
A- (90-91.9)	C- (70-71.9)
B+ (88-89.9)	D+ (68-69.9)
B (82-87.9)	D (62-67.9)
B- (80-81.9)	D- (60-61.9)
C+ (78 – 79.9)	F (0-59.9)

Accommodation:

Should you have any individual concerns regarding disability please discuss this with me during the first week of class in person or via email. In addition, individuals from the counseling center will work with you to verify your need for accommodation and will help determine the environment in which you will have the opportunity to succeed in this course. To this end, students who wish to request

accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Here is a tentative schedule and list of topics to be covered in class this semester. I am fairly certain that the schedule will be revised as we move forward as we will try to incorporate applications involving work with people who are often in the field (translating research into action: classroom skype calls with Dr. Munirul Alam, Dr. K.M.S.Aziz, Dr. MD Jakariya).

I. Conceptual Foundations

Week One (January 19, 21)

Introduction to Environmental Economics, showcasing contaminated drinking water – Chapter 1, handout

Economy and Environment, Review of Economic Concepts and Analytical Tools - Ch 2: Ch 3

Week Two (January 26, 28)

Economy and Environment - Ch 2: Ch 3

Illustrations of Economic Perspectives (eg biodiversity, cholera), Readings/Clip Viewing TBA

Week Three (February 2, 4)

General models in Pollution Control and Analytical Frameworks, – Ch 5, Notes from Chapter 19

General models in Pollution Control and Analytical Frameworks - Ch 5, Ch 6

Baseball in the Time of Cholera

II. Economics of Environmental Quality and Analytical Methods

Week Four (February 9, 11)

General models in Pollution Control and Analytical Frameworks - Ch 5, Ch 6

General models in Pollution Control and Analytical Frameworks - Ch 5, Ch 6

- **Note mandatory attendance to a conversation with Mario Joseph, International human rights attorney, at 4 p.m. at the Saal in the Bahnson center.**

Week Five (February 16, 18)

Test 1

II. Environmental Policy Analysis

Benefits and Costs: Benefit-Cost Analysis - Ch 7, Ch 8

Week Six (February 23, 25)

Benefits and Costs: Benefit-Cost Analysis - Ch 7, Ch 8

Benefits and Costs: Benefit-Cost Analysis - Ch 7, Ch 8

Week Seven (March 1, 3)

Tools to Measure Benefits – Posted Readings

Tools to Measure Benefits – Posted Readings

Week Eight (March 15, 17)

Tools to Measure Benefits – Posted Readings

Test 2

Week Nine (March 22, 24)

Averting Behavior - Water Pollution – Arsenic in Drinking Water

Exercise on benefits measurement/welfare

Week Ten (March 29, 31)

Film viewing

Film Quiz/Review

Week Eleven (April 5, 7)

Criteria for Evaluating Environmental Policies – Ch. 9, Decentralized Policies, Command-and-Control Strategies– Ch 10, Ch 11

Criteria for Evaluating Environmental Policies – Ch. 9, Decentralized Policies, Command-and-Control Strategies – Ch 10, Ch 11, Command and Control versus Incentive Based–Ch 12

Note: Mandatory Presentations to be held during special student panels at the In Focus Symposium on April 5-6. You are to submit an abstract to me via email by January 31.

III. International Environmental Issues, Class Presentations

Week Twelve (April 12, 14)

Test 3

Special Topics; The Global Environment, Intl. Environmental Issues – Ch 21, 23, Readings TBA

Week Thirteen (April 19, 21)

Review/Classroom Activity/Readings/Presentations

Classroom Activity/Readings/Presentations

Week Fourteen (April 26, 28)

Classroom Activity/Readings/Presentations

Classroom Activity/Readings/Presentations

Week Fifteen - End of classes, Finals