McGill University
Department of Economics
Economics of the Environment
(ECON 225)
Fall 2018

Professor: Dr. Sandra Saghir
E-mail: sandra.saghir@mcgill.ca
Office: Leacock 531
Office Hours: Mondays 10:00am – 11:30am

Course Location: STBIO S1/4
Course meeting times: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 8:35am – 9:25am
Prerequisites: none

Content

The course is an introduction to the economic concepts used to examine environmental issues as well as the application of economic theory to environmental policy. Topics covered include externalities, public goods, environmental valuation, cost-benefit analysis and environmental regulation. We will cover Canadian case studies but global environmental issues such as ozone depletion and biodiversity will also be presented.

Textbook


You may purchase the e-book online at CND $89 through McGraw-Hill at
http://www.mheducation.ca/highereducation/products/9781259103711/connect+online+access+for+environmental+economics/
TAs

Your primary contacts should be the three teaching assistants listed below. They will hold office hours every week during which they will help you work through problems and answer questions related to the course material.

Manon Leger: manon.leger@mail.mcgill.ca
Yue (Jamie) Wang: yue.wang3@mail.mcgill.ca
Xuemeng Zhou: xuemeng.zhou@mail.mcgill.ca

Communication: The TAs should be your primary contacts. You may come during my office hours for any issue you may have concerning the course. Any additional readings, information and important events will be posted on MyCourses. You are responsible in checking it daily.

Grading Scheme

Your grade this semester will be based on:
- 2 in-class tests (2 x 25%) (Tentatively weeks of Oct. 15th and Nov. 19th)
- A final 3 hour Exam (50%)

There will be no make-up midterms. If you must miss an in-class test for a legitimate documented reason, the value of the test will be transferred to the final. For example if you are ill and miss the first test, your new grading scheme will be 25% for Test 2 and 75% for the Final.

Important dates

Sept. 5th: First day of Classes
Sept. 18th: Add/Drop deadline
Week of Oct.15th: Tentative Test #1
Week of Nov. 19th: Tentative Test #2
Tentative Course Outline

1 Introduction to environmental economics
Field and Olewiler (F&O): Chapters 1 & 2

2 Analytic Tools
Supply/demand, willingness to pay and marginal benefits – F&O: Chapter 3
Markets and economic efficiency, market failures – F&O Chapter 4
Marginal & total damages, optimal pollution levels – F&O Chapter 5

3 Benefit-Cost Analysis
Measuring environmental market and non-market costs and benefits – F&O Chapters 6-8

4 Environmental policy analysis
Analysis and instruments, criteria, rights, standards, taxes, permits – F&O Chapters 9 - 13
Policy efficiency – F&O Chapter 14
Canadian context – F&O Chapters 15 - 19
Global context – F&O Chapter 20
Required Official Statements

1. McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

2. In accordance with McGill University’s Charter of Students Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

3. Instructors who may adopt the use of text-matching software to verify the originality of students’ written course work must register for use of the software with Educational Technologies (Email) and must inform their students before the drop/add deadline, in writing, of the use of text-matching software in a course.

4. If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 514-398-6009 before you do this.

5. Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students’ Rights” (Chapter One of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook available as a PDF on http://www.mcgill.ca/study/2010-2011/).

6. McGill University shall strive to be recognized as an environmentally safe and responsible institution, and as a model of environmentally responsible living.” (see Environmental Policy for McGill University)

7. In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.