COURSE OUTLINE

Environmental Economics
ECON207

S1, 2019
Paper Description and Aims

The objective of ECON207 is to provide you with an understanding of key environmental issues from an economic perspective. Building on microeconomic analysis introduced in BSNS113, we apply economic concepts to issues such as valuing the environment, cost-benefit analysis, depletable resource allocation, water, fisheries, forests, ecosystem goods & services, pollution and climate change.

The prerequisites for the paper are BSNS113. You should be acquainted with the concepts of supply-demand, marginal benefit/cost, discounting etc. but we will also do some basic revision.

Lecturer

Name: Viktoria Kahui
Office: OBS 518
Email: viktoria.kahui@otago.ac.nz
Office Hours: drop in any time or arrange a time by email

Course Outline and Reading

The required textbook for this course is Tietenberg & Lewis, “Environmental & Natural Resource Economics”, 11th edition, International Student Edition, Routledge (the 10th edition is also fine). You can purchase a copy of the textbook from the University bookshop. Copies of the textbook are also on Closed Reserve in the Library.
Week 1  The economic approach (Ch. 1 and Ch. 2)
Week 2  Cost-benefit analysis (Ch. 3)
Week 3  Valuing the environment (Ch. 4)
Week 4 & 5 Depleteable resource allocation (Ch. 5 and Ch. 6)
Week 6  Water (Ch. 9)
Week 7  Land (Ch. 10)
Week 8  Forests (Ch. 11)
Week 9 & 10 Fisheries (Ch. 12)
Week 11 Economics of pollution control (Ch. 14)
Week 12 Climate change (Ch. 16)
Week 13 Revision week

All lectures slides and additional material will be posted on Blackboard. (https://blackboard.otago.ac.nz/). Blackboard is used to email the whole class so it is important that you check your student email and Blackboard regularly.

Assessment

Assessment consists of weekly quizzes, fortnightly tutorial hand-in questions, and a final exam that covers material from throughout the course.

Your learning will be assessed in three ways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Plussage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortnightly tutorial hand-in</td>
<td>25% or 15%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>65% or 75%</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekly quizzes.** Every Monday at 9:00 o’clock in the morning, starting Monday 4 March, I will post a quiz on Blackboard. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions similar to what you can expect to see on the final exam. The quiz will be available to work on for one week only, and then the next quiz will appear.

You will submit your answers to the quiz on Blackboard, which marks your quiz automatically and posts your result to Grade Centre. You are welcome, in fact encouraged, to work with other people on the quiz, but **you must submit your answers individually** before the next quiz appears at 9:00 am on the following Monday. There will be a total of 11 weekly quizzes.

Each of your **ten best** quizzes is worth up to 1 mark (1%) from your final course mark. So, you can miss one quiz without any loss. If you get 8 or more answers correct for a given quiz, it will receive the full mark. If you get fewer than 8 answers correct on any given quiz, you will receive the corresponding fraction of the mark for that quiz, e.g. if you get six answers correct, you get 0.6 of a mark for that quiz.
Extensions will not be given for the weekly quiz. You have a full week to complete the quiz, and the quiz can be completed from anywhere there is internet access. The quiz is marked automatically at the due date and time. One of the reasons I count only the best 10 quiz marks is in recognition that you may have a good reason for missing the deadline for one quiz during the course. If you think you have a good reason for missing the deadline for more than one quiz, please contact me.

**Fortnightly tutorial hand-in.** Tutorials meet every other week beginning in week 2 (i.e. the week of 4 March). Tutorial hand-in questions will be posted on Blackboard and distributed in your tutorial. Your tutorials provide an opportunity to learn and ask questions, and provide guidance on what is expected from the hand-in. Printed or neatly hand-written answers to the hand-in questions have to be submitted by 1pm on the Friday of the week following the relevant tutorial. For example, the hand-in for tutorial 1 (in week 2) is due by the Friday of week 3 (15 March, 1pm). All answers must be submitted as a hard copy to the blue ECON207 pigeonhole (No. 6) in the Economics Department (on the 5th floor of the OBS Building) opposite the kitchenette. Emailed submissions will not be accepted, unless you have a good reason. To give you flexibility, only your top 5 (of 6) tutorial scores count toward the final mark. If you miss a tutorial, you can attend any of the other tutorials during the week.

**Final exam.** The final exam is of three hours duration. More information will be provided closer to the time.

**Plussage** means that the weight of your exam mark will be increased (from 65% to 75%) and the weight of your tutorial hand-in mark will be reduced (from 25% to 15%) if the former exceeds the latter. In other words, I calculate your final mark in two ways:

- weekly quizzes (10%) + final exam (65%) + fortnightly hand-in (25%)
- weekly quizzes (10%) + final exam (75%) + fortnightly hand-in (15%)

Your final mark is the higher of the two.

Your scores on quizzes and the fortnightly hand-ins will be posted on Blackboard’s Grade Centre. Make sure that you check occasionally to verify that internal assessments are getting recorded properly.

**Course Delivery**

**Lectures:** Monday 4pm; Tuesday 11am; Thursday 4pm  
**Tutorials:** TBA  

Venues and tutorial allocation will be announced on Blackboard and/or eVision. Students ought to attend the three lectures and one tutorial each fortnight. Tutorials begin in the second week of the semester.
## Lecture Timetable 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Monday (4.00 - 4.50)</th>
<th>Tuesday (11.00 - 11.50)</th>
<th>Thursday (4.00 - 4.50)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 25 February</td>
<td>Intro / Lecture 1</td>
<td>Lecture 2</td>
<td>Lecture 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 4 March (Tutorial 1)</td>
<td>Lecture 4</td>
<td>Lecture 5</td>
<td>Lecture 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 11 March</td>
<td>Lecture 7</td>
<td>Lecture 8</td>
<td>Lecture 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 18 March (Tutorial 2)</td>
<td>Lecture 10</td>
<td>Lecture 11</td>
<td>Lecture 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 25 March</td>
<td>Lecture 13</td>
<td>Lecture 14</td>
<td>Lecture 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 1 April (Tutorial 3)</td>
<td>Lecture 16</td>
<td>Lecture 17</td>
<td>Lecture 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 8 April</td>
<td>Lecture 19</td>
<td>Lecture 20</td>
<td>Lecture 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 15 April (Tutorial 4)</td>
<td>Lecture 22</td>
<td>Lecture 23</td>
<td>Lecture 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>Mid-sem. break</td>
<td>Mid-sem. break</td>
<td>Mid-sem. break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 29 April</td>
<td>Lecture 25</td>
<td>Lecture 26</td>
<td>Lecture 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 6 May (Tutorial 5)</td>
<td>Lecture 28</td>
<td>Lecture 29</td>
<td>Lecture 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 13 May</td>
<td>Lecture 31</td>
<td>Lecture 32</td>
<td>Lecture 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 20 May (Tutorial 6)</td>
<td>Lecture 34</td>
<td>Lecture 35</td>
<td>Lecture 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 27 May</td>
<td>Buffer / revision</td>
<td>Buffer / revision</td>
<td>No lecture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student webmail

IMPORTANT - DO THIS NOW:
Forward your University email address to an email address that you use regularly as follows:

1. Log into your StudentMail account using your student username and password
2. Click Cog button (top right corner) > Options
3. Under Account, select the Forward your email shortcut under the Short Cuts menu on the right side of the screen.
4. Under the Forwarding heading, type in the email address you want your email to be forwarded to. You can also choose to have a copy of these emails kept on your StudentMail account, so please check the box if you would like this.
5. Click the Start forwarding button.

Expectations and Workload

This is an 18-point paper. The University rule of thumb is that you should plan to devote an average of 12 hours work per week to this paper for the duration of the semester.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this paper, you should have gained knowledge about key environmental issues from an economic perspective. More generic skills you gain in this paper are written communication through tutorial hand-ins, the ability to manage your workflow by keeping up with the reading and lecture materials through regular quizzes, and the ability to critically evaluate and participate in debates of environmental issues through lectures and tutorials.

Student Learning Support and Information

Student Charter
http://www.otago.ac.nz/about/otago005275.html

Guidelines for Learning at Otago
http://hedc.otago.ac.nz/hedc/learning/

Student Learning Centre
The Student Learning Centre, which is part of the Higher Education Development Centre, provides learning support, free of charge, to ALL enrolled students. Their services include:

- a workshop programme designed to help students to improve their learning strategies and their generic skills;
- individual assistance with learning issues;
• on-line study skills advice;
• a student leadership programme
• a student-led peer support programme for students of all ages and backgrounds.
• conversational English groups for students from a non-English speaking background

The Centre also provides two very helpful study guides, “Guidelines for Writing and Editing” and “Writing University Assignments” and these are available on the SLC website.  
http://slc.otago.ac.nz/

Library Support
The Library website  http://www.otago.ac.nz/library  provides access to resources and services, including group room bookings, library hours and locations, past exam papers, subject guides, article databases and more.

If you need assistance either check out the self-help guides http://otago.libguides.com/selfhelp, or ask Library staff at the ground floor service desks, or email ask.library@otago.ac.nz

Māori Student Support
Rachel Sizemore (Ngāi Tahu)
Kaiārahi Māori

Rachel provides tautoko to Māori students in the Business School. Offering an ear to listen, help with scholarships, extra tutorials, and to liaise with academic departments and Student Services with regards to those students and their intended course of study. Rachel offers support also to those studying away from their whanau, hapū and iwi, to feel safe and supported.  
Tel +64 3 479 5342    Email: rachel.sizemore@otago.ac.nz

Pacific Islands' Student Academic Advisor
Warm Pacific Greetings
Talofa lava, my name is Esmay Eteuati and my role is to liaise with Academic Departments and Student Services relating to Pacific students’ and their course of study. I support both staff and students in the Business School and have a network of Pacific contacts in other Divisions around the University.  
Tel +64 3 479 4756    Email: esmay.eteuati@otago.ac.nz

Student Feedback

We encourage your feedback. This can be in the form of contacting staff, participating in course evaluation surveys and communicating with class representatives. Continual improvements will be made to this course based in part on student feedback.

Class Representatives
The class (or student) representative system is an avenue for encouraging communication and consultation between staff and students. It provides you with a vehicle for communicating your views on the teaching and delivery of the paper and provides staff with an opportunity to communicate
information and gain constructive feedback from students. It contributes to the development of a sense of community within a department and it adds a further dimension to the range of support services offered to students.

Volunteers for the role of class representatives will be called early in the semester. The OUSA invites all class representatives to a training session, conducted by OUSA, about what it means to be a class representative and some of the possible procedures for dealing with issues that arise. They also provide information on the services that OUSA offers and the role OUSA can play in solving problems that may occur. The OUSA provides support to class representatives during the semester. Departmental staff will also meet with class representatives during the semester to discuss general issues or matters they wish to have considered.

Your class representative's name and contact details will be posted on Blackboard early in the semester.

**Concerns about the Course**

I am happy to discuss any concerns you may have. Alternatively, you can report your concerns to the Class Representative who will follow up with departmental staff. If, after making approaches via these channels, you do not feel that your concerns have been addressed, there are University channels that may aid resolution. For further advice or more information on these, contact the departmental administrator or head of department.