

# Course outline

## ECON207 Environmental Economics

### Semester 1, 2022

#### Paper description

The objective of ECON207 is to provide you with an understanding of key environmental issues from an economic perspective.

**Prerequisite:** BSNS113

#### Learning Outcomes

- understand key economic concepts used to explain environmental issues, such as externalities, Tragedy of the commons and public goods
- understand environmental policy making in Aotearoa New Zealand
- apply your understanding to personal decisions

#### Teaching Staff

Viktoria Kahui (Paper Coordinator and Lecturer)  
Aleisha Lord (Tutor)

For enquiries about ECON207 email [aleisha.lord@otago.ac.nz](mailto:aleisha.lord@otago.ac.nz)

If you have a **good reason** to change your **tutorial stream** email [economics@otago.ac.nz](mailto:economics@otago.ac.nz)

Emails from any address other than your University of Otago email may land in our junk folder.

#### **No response will be provided to emails that**

- **are answered by this course outline or the information provided on BB;**
- **do not contain Student ID and the Paper code ECON207 in the subject line.**

**You may ask Viktoria or Aleisha after class if in doubt.**

#### Lectures

Monday 4pm; Tuesday 11am; Thursday 4pm

Lectures are **recorded** and are made available **within 24 hours**. Lecture slides are posted on Blackboard (BB) before lectures. Check e-Vision for rooms. If COVID restrictions require online teaching, **zoom links** for live lectures will be posted on BB.

#### Tutorials

- start in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of lectures; **every fortnight** (check eVision for your stream)
- tutorials are **NOT** recorded
- if you **miss** your tutorial, try and join any other tutorial or join via zoom (zoom link and time will be posted on BB – anyone can attend)

#### Reading

- Tietenberg & Lewis, "*Environmental & Natural Resource Economics*", 11<sup>th</sup> edition, International Student Edition, Routledge (the 10<sup>th</sup> edition is also fine).
- copies of textbook on Reserve in the Library

## Assessment

	Weight	Plussage	Notes
Fortnightly MC	10%	No	5 MC tests; best 4 count
Fortnightly SA	10%	No	5 SA; best 4 count
Mid-semester test	20%	Yes	Covering first 4 weeks of teaching
Final examination	60%	-	

**Fortnightly multichoice (MC) tests and fortnightly short answers (SA).** Every second Monday at **12 noon**, starting 07 March 2022, we will post a MC test (10 questions) and a SA (5 marks) on BB. Both are available for a **fortnight**, when the next MC/SA appears.

You **can work with others** on your answers but have to submit your answers **individually** on BB (your grades are posted to the Grade Centre). Instructions are provided on BB.

There are 5 MC tests/SA in total; your **best 4** out of 5 MCtests/SA will count (i.e. you **can miss** one of each without penalty).

- No extensions are provided.
- The onus lies with the students to 'submit' the MC test (instructions on how to check you correctly submitted will be provided on BB).
- If you upload the wrong file for your SA, you can re-upload unlimited times before respective submission date – the file uploaded last will be marked.
- **Submitting answers shortly before the deadline runs the risk of internet failure or other problems; we assume any student choosing to do so has 'risk-loving' preferences and accepts the implications graciously.**
- No changes to assessments are allowed after each submission date; and no exceptions are made other than for reasons beyond the student's control lasting for more than 3 weeks (relevant evidence required).

**Mid-semester test (online).** This test is currently scheduled for **Monday 11 April 2022** during lecture time. The test is of **40 minutes** duration. More instructions to follow.

If you miss the test, plussage will automatically apply. There are **no resits** and **no need** to let us know.

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

**Plussage** means your final grade is the **highest** of these two calculations:

MC tests (10%) + SA (10%) + mid-semester test (20%) + final exam (60%)

MC tests (10%) + SA (10%) + final exam (80%)

## Course Outline

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	Depletable resource allocation (Ch. 5 and Ch. 6)
Week 6	Water (Ch. 9)
Week 7	Land (Ch. 10)
Week 8	Forests (Ch. 11)
Week 9	Fisheries (Ch. 12)
Week 10	Ecosystem Goods and Services (Ch. 13)
Week 11	Economics of pollution control (Ch. 14)
Week 12	Climate change (Ch. 16)
Week 13	Māori view of ecosystems and the environment as a legal person (additional reading provided)

Week <b>beginning</b> ↓	<i>Monday</i> <i>4pm</i>	<i>Tuesday</i> <i>11am</i>	<i>Thursday</i> <i>4pm</i>
1      28 Feb	Intro / Lecture 1	Lecture 2	Lecture 3
2      7 March (Tutorial 1)	Lecture 4	Lecture 5	Lecture 6
3      14 March	Lecture 7	Lecture 8	Lecture 9
4      21 March (Tutorial 2)	Lecture 10	Lecture 11	Lecture 12
5      28 March	Lecture 13	Lecture 14	Lecture 15
6      4 April (Tutorial 3)	Lecture 16	Lecture 17	Lecture 18
7      11 April	<b>Mid-term test (online)</b> <b>(11 April 2022)</b>	Lecture 19	Lecture 20
18 April	<b>Mid-sem. break</b>	<b>Mid-sem. break</b>	<b>Mid-sem. break</b>
8      25 April (Tutorial 4)	Lecture 22	Lecture 23	Lecture 24
9      2 May	Lecture 25	Lecture 26	Lecture 27
10     9 May (Tutorial 5)	Lecture 28	Lecture 29	Lecture 30
11     16 May	Lecture 31	Lecture 32	Lecture 33
12     23 May (Tutorial 6)	Lecture 34	Lecture 35	Lecture 36
13     30 May	Revision Lecture	<b>No lecture</b>	<b>No lecture</b>