

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS
AGECON 430/ECON 430 - FALL 2017
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE – WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Kevin J. Bacon
Office Phone: 309/298-1084
Office Fax: 309/298-2280
Email: KJ-Bacon@wiu.edu

Office: 309 Knoblauch
Office Hours: MWF 10–11, M 12-1, T 11-12,
or by appointment.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATION

AGECON 430/ECON 430 is a cross listed course. We will meet in 308 Knoblauch Hall from 9:00 – 9:50 MWF. In addition, course materials will be made available through Western Online.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES

This interdisciplinary course examines economic issues involving the interactions between humans and the environment. The course addresses conflicts in land, air, and water use and the role of assigned property rights and public policies in resolving environmental problems. Not open to students with credit in ECON 430. The prerequisite is either *AGRI 220 Introduction to Agribusiness Concepts* or *Economics 232 Principles of Microeconomics*. **If you do not have the prerequisite, you are advised to drop the course.**

TEXTS

Tietenberg, Tom and Lynne Lewis. (2016). *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*. Tenth Edition. Routledge Publishing Company. ISBN 10# 013347969-2 ISBN 13# 978-0-13-347969-0. While the book is available through the bookstore, online prices are likely to be significantly less expensive.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To identify important natural resource management issues.
- To evaluate basic concepts such as supply, demand, and implicit prices as related to natural resource issues.
- To evaluate the applicability of alternative economic concepts such as public choice to the resolution of natural resource problems.
- To analyze specific natural resource and environmental problems such as pollution control, energy and water issues, and other economic concerns pertinent to agriculture and the environment.

USE OF CELL PHONES

As a courtesy to other students and to the instructor, all cell phones should be turned off or on vibrate prior to class. Continued disregard of this policy may result in ejection from the course. If, due to medical or public safety concerns, a student needs an exception to this policy he/she should inform the instructor prior to class. Cell phones may not be used for any reason during an exam. **Texting is not allowed during class** and repeated violations will lead to dismissal from the course with an assigned grade of F.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance in class is expected. It is your responsibility to get any missed material from a classmate. **To be able to participate effectively you will have to read the assignments before class.** Plan not only to show up, but to ask questions, take notes, to think, and to speak.

ONLINE ABSENCE REPORTING SYSTEM

The university has implemented an online absence reporting system. Please note that this system does not excuse your absence – it merely documents. It is still up to the instructor to excuse the absence. For more information please see: <http://wiu.edu/oars>. The Student Health Center no longer issues absence forms

USE OF TOBACCO

Use of tobacco **in any form** is prohibited in university buildings/classrooms.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sep. 4	-	Labor Day – No Class
Oct. 20	-	Fall Break – No Class
Nov. 20-24	-	Thanksgiving Break – No Class
Oct. 29	-	Last day to drop with a W
Dec. 13	-	Final Exam - 8:00-9:50

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend class and to actively participate in discussions.

Academic Integrity: The rules and regulations outlined in the University's policy on academic integrity are applied to this course.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Detailed information regarding student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/student/>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.

Special Accommodations: If you need special accommodations, please feel free to stop by and discuss your needs or contact Disability Support Services at 298-2512.

GRADING POLICY

The course grade will be based on the following factors, with weightings as indicated:

Exam I	20%	A = 93% or above	C- = 70-72.99%
Exam II	20%	A- = 90-92.99%	D+ = 67-69.99%
Comprehensive Final Exam	30%	B+ = 87-89.99%	D = 63-66.99%
Quizzes and Homework	10%	B = 83-86.99%	D- = 60-62.99%
Issues Paper	15%	B- = 80-82.99%	F = <60%
Presentation	5%	C+ = 77-79.99%	
		C = 73-76.99%	
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Total	100%		

Grade breaking points may be lowered, but in no case will they be raised. These breaking points will be evaluated only after final numerical grades have been calculated. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be docked 10% per day (including the due date.) Assignments will not be accepted after the homework has been discussed in class.

Attention Education Majors. To meet state certification requirements, Education majors are required to receive a grade of a "C" or better in this course. With the university +/- grading system, receiving a "C-" or below will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet graduation requirements.

Exams. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short essays. The exact nature of the exams will be indicated one week in advance. Three exams are planned during the semester (two mid-terms and a final). Under no circumstances will exams be given early. The final **will be comprehensive**. Makeup exams will be given only in extreme situations.

Issues Paper. Each student will write a 7-10 page (typed, double-spaced) policy paper discussing a "highly controversial issue" in environmental economics (the topic of "hydraulic fracturing" is reserved for class discussion and will not be available for use as an issue paper topic). While the paper's topic may be controversial, it is expected that the student will present both sides of the issue in a fair and balanced manner. The issue selected must be approved by your instructor before writing the paper. Details on issue paper topics will be distributed at a later date. The paper should be well organized and should use section headings. The writing component (format, grammar, spelling, etc.) will account for approximately 25% of the grade for the paper. Use a 12-point font-size, Times New Roman or similar style font, and **one-inch margins on all sides**. The 7-10 page requirement relates only

to the text -- title page and other attachments are not included in the 7-10 page requirement. Be sure to include in-text source identifications and a *bibliography* page. **The paper is due on or before November 10, 2017.**

Class Presentation. Each student will give a 10-12 minute PowerPoint presentation over their topic in class. These presentations will serve as the basis for at least one on-line quiz and will be considered “fair game” on the final exam. The presentations will be scheduled during the last three weeks of class.

Quizzes and Homework. Participation in each class is both encouraged and expected. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced; the timing and number of quizzes will be determined in part by the level of participation in class discussions/activities and attendance.

ACCREDITATION

The Agriculture Department is housed in the College of Business and Technology which is accredited by AACSB-International.

NOTICES

Please be advised that this syllabus is tentative. All classes are different and we may or may not be able to address all of the content areas or stick with the anticipated number of exams and/or assignments. Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. Introduction and Basic Methods
 - A. What are Resources and what is Natural Resource Economics?
 - B. Chapter 1 – Visions of the Future
 - C. Chapter 2 – Economic Approach: Property Rights, Externalities, and Environmental Problems.
 - C. Chapter 3 – Evaluating Tradeoffs: Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - D. Chapter 4 – Valuing the Environment – Methods
 - E. Chapter 5 – Dynamic Efficiency and Sustainable Development

- II. Natural Resources Applications
 - A. Chapter 6 – Depletable Resource Allocation

Exam I

- B. Chapter 7 – Energy – Transition
- C. Chapter 8 – Recyclable Resources
- D. Chapter 9 – Water
- E. Chapter 10 – Land
- F. Chapter 11 – Forestry (selected sections)
- G. Chapter 12 – Fisheries (selected sections)

Exam II

- III. Environmental Applications (selected sections)
 - A. Chapter 13 – Ecosystem Goods and Services
 - B. Chapter 14 – Economics of Pollution Control – An Overview
 - C. Chapter 15 – Stationary-Source Local and Regional Air Pollution
 - D. Chapter 16 – Climate Change
 - E. Chapter 17 – Mobile Source Air Pollution
 - F. Chapter 18 – Water Pollution
 - G. Chapter 19 – Toxic Substances and Environmental Justice

- IV. Student Presentations

Final Exam