



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

MONA CAMPUS

Department of Economics

Kingston 7

Jamaica, W.I.

ECON3034: Resource & Environmental Economics

Year: Semester I, 2021

Pre-Requisite: ECON1001 or ECON1002

Lecturer: Nekeisha Spencer

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Office hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm; Wednesdays 11-12pm

Course Description

Environmental economics is continuing to play a significant role in developing and understanding solutions to current environmental problems. It is increasingly becoming part of the actions of our regional governments and international organizations. Its application is seen in climate change, energy, pollution, water resource management, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation issues. Moreover, economic analyses have been able to determine the costs and benefits of changes in the environment leading to the design and implementation of progressive and sustainable development policies in specific areas, including but not limited to carbon emissions, air pollution and loss of ecosystem services. This course addresses these issues by examining the underlying theories and the tools of environmental economics that can be used to effectively guide policymakers in dealing with environmental challenges. Specifically, from the very onset, it synchronizes classroom learning with what exists in the real world and also considers the multidisciplinary aspects of environmental problems, which makes it an exciting venture.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students should be able to:

1. explain the basic theory of environmental economics
2. identify and assess environmental problems by applying the relevant methodologies
3. conduct non-market valuations of environmental issues
4. identify and explain local, regional and international environmental issues
5. analyze environmental policy instruments
6. explain climate change problems and measures
7. recognize local, regional and international economic responses to environmental challenges

Competence

You should be able to:

1. read and understand selected project reports, policy documents and journal articles
2. collect and critically analyze information
3. conduct your own research and produce your own academic work as required

Modes of Delivery

Two lecture hours and one discussion section per week.

Assessment

Class Quizzes/Participation 30%

Online Discussion Sessions 20%

Group Project & Presentation 50%

Course Outline

- I. Introduction to environmental economics
 - a. foundations - sustainability, economic efficiency, optimality and externalities
- II. The economy and the environment
- III. The economics of disasters and climate change and issues with policymaking
- IV. Environmental cost benefit analysis
- V. Environmental valuation
 - a. Valuing the environment from an economist's perspective
 - b. General overview environmental valuation with examples – including forests, mangroves and coral reefs.
 - c. Methods: direct market valuation, revealed preference, stated preference with examples, benefits and limitations and regional applications
- VI. International environmental problems and agreements
- VII. The green economy: economic benefits and implications

Resources

Hanley, N., Shogren, J.F. and White, B. (2001). *Introduction to Environmental Economics*. Oxford University Press.

Turner, R.K., Pearce, D. and Bateman, I. (1994). *Environmental Economics: An Elementary Introduction*. Harvester Wheatsheaf.

A wide range of reading materials along with case studies will be provided throughout the course of the semester.