

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS
AGECON 430/ECON 430 - FALL 2024
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE –
WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

INSTRUCTOR

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Virtual Office Hours: MWF 11–12, M 9-10 or by appointment.
Virtual Office Hours Preferred!

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATION

AGECON 430/ECON 430 is a cross-listed course. This course is being offered online in an asynchronous format.

Through the use of discussion board and other activities, I will make the class as interactive as possible. Course materials will be made available through Western Online.

EMAIL

Email is the preferred way to get in touch with me. **Please be sure to include the class number in any emails** either in the subject line or the body of your email.

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 (or similar microeconomics course) you are advised to drop the course.*

TEXT

Optional. Tietenberg, Tom and Lynne Lewis. (2023). *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*. 12th Edition. Routledge Publishing Company. ISBN 13# **978-1032101187**. Online prices may be significantly less expensive. If you come across the 10th or 11th edition, they will be significantly cheaper and sufficient for our needs.

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/SMART WATCHES

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.

USE OF TOBACCO

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

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>.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 2	-	Labor Day – No Class
October 4	-	Fall Break – No Class
Oct. 27	-	Last Day to Drop
Nov. 5	-	General Election – No Class
Nov. 25-29	-	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 11	-	Final Exam – Online – Time to be determined.

GRADING POLICY - Undergraduates

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

Exam I	20%	A = 93% or above	C = 73-76.99
Exam II	20%	A- = 90-92.99%	C- = 70-72.99
Comprehensive Final Exam	30%	B+ = 87-89.99%	D+ = 67-69.99%
Quizzes and Homework	15%	B = 83-86.99%	D = 63-66.99%
Article Reviews (3)	15%	B- = 80-82.99%	D- = 60-62.99%
		C+ = 77-77.99%	F = < 60%
Total	100%		

GRADING POLICY - Graduates

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

Exam I	20%	A = 90% or above
Exam II	20%	B = 80-89.99%
Comprehensive Final Exam	30%	C = 70-79.99%
Quizzes and Homework	10%	D = 60-69.99%
Article Reviews (3)	10%	F = <60%
Research Paper	10%	
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.

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.

Article Reviews. Each student will write (3) 2–3-page papers over a particular issue related to the class as found in a journal or popular press outlet. The first half or so of the paper should consist of a synopsis outlining the issue (free from personal value judgements). The second half should be your view of whether or not you agree with the article and why. Your argument for or against the article should incorporate the concepts we have covered in class. Papers will be posted online and serve as a basis for discussion boards.

Research Paper. In addition to the Article Reviews, graduate students will be required to write a 7-10 page (typed, double-spaced) policy paper discussing a "significant issue" in environmental economics (the topic of "hydraulic fracturing" is reserved for class discussion). 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 1, 2024**.

Bridge Program: For those undergraduates completing the bridge program, you will need to identify a special topic related to your interests. This product of this special topic could be a paper, a series of tables/graph with explanations, or some other format. Possible topics should be discussed with and approved by me before undertaking the work. This project will be due on or before **November 1, 2024**.

Quizzes and Homework. Participation in each class is both encouraged and expected. The timing and number of quizzes will be determined in part by the level of participation in class discussions/activities and attendance. All of the quizzes will be administered online.

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/student_success/srri/. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the posted information.
- Title IX: University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/newtitleix.php.
- *Military/Veteran Support Statement*
As a military-friendly institution, and in accordance with federal regulations and Illinois statutes, Western Illinois University has established policies and procedures to accommodate military service students. In addition to the supports available at WIU's Veterans Resource Center

(www.wiu.edu/student_success/veterans/ / 309-298-3505), veterans, members of the National Guard or Reserves, and active-duty military personnel with military obligations (e.g., deployments, trainings, drill) are encouraged to communicate these, in advance whenever possible, to the instructor. The Military Service Policy can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/military.php>

- *Students with disabilities: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Development and Success Center at 309-298-1884, disability@wiu.edu, or in 125 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.*

ACCREDITATION

The School of Agriculture 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

Final Exam