

Chaminade University

EC/ENV 313 Syllabus Fall 2015

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Office Hours: MWF 9:30-10:30, or by appointment

I will normally be in my office during these times for students to see me without appointments. However, occasionally meetings will interfere with these hours, and I will not be available. If it is important to meet with me, it would be best to call ahead to confirm that I will be there. I am available at other times as well. Phone or e mail me to set up an appointment.

Texts: There are no required texts for this course. Readings will be from various texts and articles on reserve in the library. Some books will be used more often than others. If you want to acquire a personal copy, these books are available through internet booksellers. Ask me for information if you are interested. Another valuable resource available on reserve at the library is [Economics for Dummies](#), by Sean Masaki Flynn. Wiley Publishing 2005. If you have never taken economics, or are a bit rusty, these are very simple references to explain some of the basic concepts we will be using in this course. Don't wait for readings to be assigned—if you are confused, check this book out.

Course Description:

This course provides students an opportunity to develop skills at using economic analysis to understand and consider current issues and challenges facing our society. The focus of the course is on the environmental impact of economic decisions, but the frameworks and tools examined can be applied to a wide range of social issues.

Learning Objectives: To develop your critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills in the following areas:

1. The fundamentals of economics: scarcity, choice, and opportunity cost.
2. Basic ethics, value systems, and the normative foundations of economics and other social systems.
3. The requirements and equilibrium characteristics of a well-functioning competitive market, the interpretation of gains from trade and efficient resource allocation, and the conditions under which markets fail.

4. The economics of externalities.
5. Welfare analysis of the market inefficiency caused by negative externalities.
6. The role of taxes and other regulatory schemes in resolving the inefficiency due to negative externalities.
7. Valuation techniques associated with measuring the value of non-marketed goods.
8. The methods (and shortcomings) of benefit/cost analysis.
9. The political economy of regulation ; government failure
10. The economics of crime
11. Methods of regulation that harness the incentives of markets.
12. Methods of applying economic analysis to real-life issues and problems.

Service Learning Objective:

By completing the service-learning project, students will have experience in and a greater understanding of how to apply economic principles to the choice, implementation, and analysis of environmental projects.

Additional Learning Objectives:

To enhance your analytical, research, and written communication skills by writing an objective term paper essay. To enhance your ability to work with diverse groups by having group projects assigned as part of the course work.

To enhance oral communication skills by having assignments that require reporting to the class.

It is possible to succeed in this course without having done any previous study of economics, but you will have a bit more work ahead of you than those who do have an economics background. Emphasis is given to respecting diverse viewpoints and perspectives.

Information and Communication:

This course is an CANVAS course: you are all automatically enrolled . I have posted the course syllabus and other informational documents to that site. You will submit all your written assignments to me by posting them to CANVAS You will then be able to review your grades whenever you so desire. I will use CANVAS to send messages to students when necessary, and invite you to do the same if you have reason to contact me.

If you have difficulties with CANVAS let me know IMMEDIATELY, so we can get things fixed before your grades are reduced for lateness. Similarly, if you have any questions or confusions, let me know so we can get them taken care of. As the concepts we learn one week will be the foundation of the concepts we learn the next week, one misunderstanding can create difficulties learning the materials presented later in the course.

Note students will be expected to read the material and gain a basic understanding of the topic outside of class, before the material is presented in class. . In class we will then build upon our understanding of the topic by engaging in discussion, analysis and problem-solving that will further our understanding of this topic and relate its importance in the real world.

Course Requirements

- Assigned readings and written assignments completed on time.
- Daily Quizzes taken in class: based on definitions from assigned reading for the day. NO MAKEUPS: To obtain credit for a missed quiz, or to raise a low grade on a quiz, the student must: within 5 days of the missed/low quiz, submit work showing the definition of all the terms from the reading that the missed/low quiz covered. These definitions must NOT be plagiarized, so the student must phrase and word the definitions differently than in the text.
- Exams taken as scheduled. If you need a make-up, you must let me know BEFORE I administer the exam to the class.
- Service Learning Project : participation, reports, reflection. Students register for Service Learning at: http://www.chaminade.edu/service_learning/instructions.php

Policies, Procedures, and Responsibilities

My responsibility as the professor is to assist you as you work to master the material in the course. I have endeavored to organize class time and assignments to facilitate learning, Students are responsible for their learning outcomes and their performance on all assignments; to attend class regularly and on time; to be active learners who contribute to the classroom discussion; and to be courteous and respectful of others. Please contact me if you have a problem or a conflict relating to the course.

Late work may not be accepted and when accepted will be assigned a lower grade for the lateness. Work more than 2 weeks late will not be assigned credit except in unusual circumstances.

Help me to create a friendly, inclusive, and rigorous classroom culture in which everyone is welcome to comment and contribute, and in which diversity is respected.

Grading

- *Daily quizzes (100 points)* Quizzes may not be made up, although the lowest quiz grade will be dropped for calculation of final grades.
- *Mid-Term Examination (100 points)* The format may include short answer, matching, computational problem solving and essay questions.
- *Service Learning: (100 points)* All students will participate in a class service learning project. Details of this assignment are given in a separate hand-out and also available on the eCollege website.

- *Article Reports : (100 points)* Five times during the semester, the student will report on a news article (from a current, respected news source) that pertains to an environmental issue. The student will write a short summary of the content of the article, and then add his/her analysis, where the student's thoughts on the article are expressed and explained. The analysis may point out how the article reflects what we have been covering in class, be an expression of the student's agreement or disagreement with the article; show how the topic of the article will affect us locally, regionally, nationally, and/or globally. In other words, the analysis is YOUR thoughts on the topic. Once posted, each class member will post at least once in response to the report. The purpose is to develop an online discussion of the topic. Both the original report and each student's responses will be graded.
- *Final Exam (100 points) :*

Final Grade:

Numerical scores are assigned for each graded item.:

As there are 500 total points that may be earned during the semester, the Course Numerical Score will then be converted into a letter grade based on the following scale

A=90% of total points (500) = 450+ =

B=80% - 89% of total points = 400-449

C=70% -79% of total points = 350-399

D=60% - 69% of total points = 300-349

F= below 60% = lower than 300

CHARACTERISTICS OF A MARIANIST EDUCATION

As we study the principles of macroeconomics, I will strive to conduct class in a manner consistent with the goals set forth by Chaminade University. They are to

- + educate for formation in faith
- + provide an integral, quality education
- + educate in family spirit
- + educate for service, justice, and peace

Final Exam: Monday, Dec 7 8:30 - 10:30