



EC 315
Environmental Economics
Spring 2025
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Ron A. Porter
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Office: n/a

Class meets: TBD
Office Hours: TBD

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the economics of natural resource management and its implications for environmental policy. Topics include benefit-cost analysis, valuation, market failure, pollution control, sustainable development, market-based environmental policy, and the economics of renewable and non-renewable resource management.

Textbook: Economics and the Environment (9th Ed), Eban S. Goodstein and Stephen Polasky, Wiley 2020. ISBN: 978-1-119-36986-8.

Other materials will be posted on the Canvas course website and/or provided in class.

Course Learning Objectives (CLOs): By the end of the course, you will be able to

- 1) Define environmental economics.
- 2) Understand the impact of population growth on the environment and related policy formation.
- 3) Explain the use of cost-benefit analysis on determining environmental policy
- 4) Analyze historical environmental issues and the related economic assumptions/theories they were based on.
- 5) List the key variables critical to sustainable development.

This course satisfies the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):

	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4	CLO 5
PLO	1,2,4	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3
Marianist Values: 3					

Program Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Know how to think, understand and theorize about *Value* in an environmentally sustainable context.
- 2) Formulate an understanding of productive and unproductive engagements in society pertaining to the environment.
- 3) Undertake analysis, perform tasks, and develop a foundation for using economic thought in solving the world's environmental challenges..
- 4) Be able to place yourself and your value creation in our modern economic world regardless of profession or role(s).
- 5) Have an awareness of the ethical implications your economic actions have on

society.

Marianist Values:

Native Hawaiian Values:

1) Education for formation in faith	(Mana) E ola au i ke akua (‘Ōlelo No’eau 364) - May I live by God
2) Provide an integral, quality education	(Na’auao) Lawe i ka ma’alea a kū’ono’ono (‘Ōlelo No’eau 1957) - Acquire skill and make it deep
3) Educate in family spirit	(‘Ohana) ‘Ike aku, ‘ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana ‘ohana (‘Ōlelo No’eau 1200) - Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship
4) Educate for service, justice & peace	(Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no’eau (‘Ōlelo No’eau 1430) - Education is the standing torch of wisdom
5) Educate for adaptation & change	(Aina) ‘A’ohe pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho’okahi (‘Ōlelo No’eau 203) - All knowledge is not taught in the same school

Credit Hour Policy: This is a three-credit hour course requiring 135 clock hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in this course are anticipated to spend a total of 37.5 hours in class, 28 hours preparing, delivering, and reflecting on a semester-long service-learning project, 8 hours studying for the midterm exam, and 10.5 hours studying for and taking the final exam. There will be an additional 51 hours of work required beyond what is listed here, including but not limited to, course readings, homework assignments, group studies, etc., averaging 3.4 hours each week.

Course Policies: Please see the following for our class policy. You are expected to act in a professional manner for this class. Class participation and collaboration are strongly encouraged.

- 1. Course websites:** You are responsible for checking our Canvas course webpage regularly. All the course materials, announcements, homework assignments, grades, etc. will be posted on the course webpage. Missing an announcement or email is not a valid reason for not completing any course requirement.
- 2. Email communication:** When emailing me, please include your name and class information in the email. Please expect a reply within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends.
- 3. Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes. You will be randomly audited for attendance during this semester. If you must miss class, please contact Dr. Porter at your earliest convenience and provide proper documentation. It is your responsibility to catch up with the class material.

4. **Class etiquette:** You are expected to behave properly in class so as not to disrupt other students or the learning environment, including not talking or texting during lecture times, arriving on time and not leaving early, etc. If you must leave class early or arrive late for any reason, please let me know in advance.

Grading and Assignments: Your grade is composed of

- **Attendance:** 50 points
- **Homework Assignments:** 100 points
- **Exams:** 100 each * 2 exams = 200 points
- **Service-Learning Project:** 200 points. You are required to complete community service as a course requirement. More information will be provided in class.

Grading Scales:

Total Points	Letter Grade
≥ 495	A
440 - 494	B
385 - 439	C
330 - 384	D
≤ 329	F

Grading Policies:

1. **Late/missed homework assignments:** All homework assignments will be distributed via Canvas. Homework due dates will be decided per assignment. You will have two attempts for each assignment, and only the highest score will be recorded. No late submission will be accepted. If you miss an assignment, you will automatically receive a zero for that assignment. Not checking Canvas course website, internet instability, technical problem, etc. are not valid reasons for missing an assignment.
2. **Missed exams or quizzes:** If you miss an exam or quiz, you will automatically receive a zero for that exam/quiz, except that you have a valid reason*, as well as you submit written documentation/proof promptly.
3. **Missed extra credit opportunities:** If you miss any extra-credit activities, you will not be able to make it up.

**Valid reasons include medical situations, a death in your immediate family, athlete travels, mandatory court, and military duty. In all these cases, you are required to submit written documentation ASAP. Being confused about the date or time of the class or exam, having non-refundable airplane tickets that conflict with class/exam date and time, family vacation, etc. are not valid reasons for missing a class or an exam.*

Course Schedule

This course schedule provides a general plan. Deviations may be necessary.

Week	Topic
1	Four Economic Questions about Climate Change and Economic Ethics
2	Externalities and the Efficiency Standard
3	Measuring the Costs and Benefits of Environmental Protection
4	The Safety and Sustainability Standards
5	Measuring Sustainability
6	EXAM I
7	Consumption and Welfare
8	The Political Economy of Environmental Regulation
9	The Regulatory Record: Achievements and What Still Needs to be Done
10	Incentive-based Regulation Theory and Practice
11	The Role of Clean Technology: Theory
12	Energy Policy Now and in the Future
13	Poverty, Population, and the Environment
14	Environmental Policy in Low-income Countries
15	The Economics of the Global Agreements
16	EXAM II

University Policies:

Academic Honesty Statement: Violations of the Honor Code are serious. They harm other students, your professor, and the integrity of the University. Alleged violations will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. If found guilty of plagiarism, a student might receive a range of penalties, including failure of an assignment, failure of an assignment and withholding of the final course grade until a paper is turned in on the topic of plagiarism, failure of the course, or suspension from the University. Violations of Academic Integrity: Violations of the principle include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise.
- Fabrication and Falsification: Intentional and unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification is a matter of inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.
- Multiple Submissions: The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work for credit (including oral reports) more than once without authorization.
- Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source).
- Abuse of Academic Materials: Intentionally or knowingly destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource materials. Complicity in Academic Dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying or borrowing liberally from someone else's work without his/her knowledge or permission; or with his/her knowledge or permission and turning it in as your own work.
- Copying of someone else's exam or paper.
- Allowing someone to turn in your work as his or her own.
- Not providing adequate references for cited work.
- Copying and pasting large quotes or passages without properly citing them.

Disability Access: If you need individual accommodations to meet course outcomes because of a documented disability, please speak with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible so that we can ensure your full participation in class and fair assessment of your work. Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning by the end of week three of the class, in order for instructors to plan accordingly. If a student would like to determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Kōkua 'Ike Coordinator at (808) 739-8305 for further information (ada@chaminade.edu).

Title IX Compliance: Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual

misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources by visiting Campus Ministry, the Dean of Students Office, the Counseling Center, or the Office for Compliance and Personnel Services.