

ECON 307/AGSC 307: Environmental Economics

Fall 2020

Course Information

Professor Information:

Professor: Dr. Katherine Lacy

Office: AB 318G

Phone: 775-682-9370

Email: katherinelacy@unr.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM via Zoom and by appointment

Zoom info: <https://unr.zoom.us/j/97782484913?pwd=RmRHa0U5eENQa0JxenRjNmJsUzRDZz09>

Meeting ID: 977 8248 4913 Passcode: 247741

Email:

Please include the course and section number when sending me an email so I know exactly which class you are referring to.

I will read and respond to course-related emails in a timely fashion (within 48 hours) between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM, Monday – Friday. However, I hold the right to not respond to emails I perceive as unprofessional. Please read this blog for guidelines about writing professional emails: <http://mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html>

I will only discuss grades via WebCampus messages or on private zoom meetings. Please do not use your private email address to inquire about grades.

Professor Commitment:

You can expect me to be courteous, punctual, organized, and prepared for class activities; to answer questions clearly and in a non-negative fashion; to be available during office hours or to notify you beforehand if I am unable to keep them, and to grade uniformly and consistently according to the written guidelines. I enjoy teaching economics and statistics courses, and I look forward to working with you this semester.

Student Commitment:

I expect you to be courteous, punctual and prepared for class activities; ask questions regarding material being discussed and be prepared to enter class discussion; be respectful of others' opinions; observe classroom etiquette - be on time, turn off your cell phone, do not chat with your neighbor about non-class related activities, do not text or accept phone calls during class, do not dip or consume other tobacco products, etc. **I hold the right to remove you from zoom class if you do not follow classroom etiquette.**

Additionally, if you partake in behavior that causes class disruptions (i.e., sharing zoom meeting link and password with individuals not in the course) you will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and subject to sanctions listed in UAM 6,502: Academic Standards (<https://www.unr.edu/administrative-manual/6000-6999-curricula-teaching-research/6502-academic-standards>)

Course Description:

Monday and Wednesday 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM – Fully Remote (meet via zoom)

Economic analysis of pollution, common property, property rights, and basic principles of non-market valuation.

Course Pre-requisites:

ECON 261 and IS 101

Required texts, course materials:

Environmental Economics and Management: Theory, Policy, and Applications. By Scott J. Callan and Janet M. Thomas.

The textbook is **required** for this course. Handouts and other reading assignments may be used to supplement the text and will generally be available via the course WebCampus site.

A webcam and microphone are required to participate in class remotely.

WebCampus:

There is a class web site available through the University WebCampus. To access the class page through WebCampus, go to <https://wcl.unr.edu/>. Course-related material will be posted on the web site. Therefore, you should check this site regularly.

Calculators:

Phones may NOT be used as calculators on quizzes and exams. Please see Dr. Lacy if you have any questions.

Student Learning Outcomes:

From the course description - Upon completion of this course:

1. Identify sources of market failure that cause environmental costs to society.
2. Identify market-based and regulatory methods designed to incorporate environmental costs into economic decision-making, and evaluate circumstances for which various methods are more or less advantageous than others.
3. Assess the magnitudes of environmental costs and benefits, and identify which groups in society bear these.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class. If you are not able to turn in a homework assignment or take an exam because of an unexcused absence, you will **not** be able to turn the homework in late or take the exam.

An official excuse from a scheduled class activity such as an exam must be presented in writing no later than two weeks prior to the date of the absence. An absence due to illness or family emergency may be excused, provided that you can supply acceptable written evidence if required, and that you notify Dr. Lacy as soon as possible. Notification is almost always possible immediately upon occurrence of an emergency. If you're too sick to telephone, you can get a friend to do it. Failure to make such timely notification may result in denial of your request.

If you are absent on the day of an exam due to excuses mentioned above, you must notify me before the exam. You must schedule the make-up exam before the next meeting of the class. Special arrangements can be made for extended absences due to medical, family tragedy, or school-related reasons, provided I am notified in advance. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a zero.

Class Participation:

During each class, I will take notes on attendance and the class discussion (when applicable). Specifically, after each class discussion (either a formal, announced, class discussion or informal, unannounced, class discussion) I will provide you with a score between 0 and 15 based on the rubric below. Before each exam, I will update your class participation score, which will represent your average participation score from classes prior to the exam (and after the previous exam). I will drop the lowest participation score before calculating your average score.

Rubric:

Standards	Exceeds Standard (5 points)	Meets Standard (4 points)	Needs Improvement (0 - 3 points)
Develop and demonstrate critical reading, listening, and viewing strategies.	<p>Student gives passage, page number, and thorough explanation of the text’s significance.</p> <p>Student fully identifies and evaluates the primary focus, logic, style, and structure of a text.</p>	<p>Student gives general textual idea but cannot locate/identify passage for support.</p> <p>Student adequately identifies and evaluates the primary focus, logic, style, and structure of a text.</p>	<p>Student cannot give textual support for discussion point.</p> <p>Student cannot identify and/or evaluate the primary focus, logic, style, and structure of a text.</p>
Construct meaning beyond the literal level— e.g., drawing inferences, confirming and correcting, making comparisons and connections, and drawing conclusions.	<p>Student responds to questions with full and specific knowledge, and often uses literary language in their response—e.g., themes, imagery, symbolism, motifs, etc.</p>	<p>Student demonstrates general idea in her or his responses, but without key details or deeper analyses.</p>	<p>Student cannot answer questions about the topic.</p>
Participate as an active member of a reading, listening, and viewing community.	<p>Student listens attentively and refers to relevant class materials to aid in full participation in the discussion.</p> <p>Student records key ideas and revises her or his previous responses based on new findings from the discussion.</p> <p>Student consistently volunteers to share knowledge with class.</p>	<p>Student is attentive but may not refer to class materials during the discussion.</p> <p>Student may not record key ideas and information from the discussion.</p> <p>Student occasionally volunteers to share knowledge with class.</p>	<p>Student is inattentive and does not have or refer to class materials related to the discussion at hand.</p> <p>Student doesn’t take notes or revise his or her responses based on the discussion.</p> <p>Student never volunteers to share knowledge with class.</p>

Homework:

Graded problem sets will be assigned on a regular schedule. Each problem set will be posted on the WebCampus course site. The posted class schedule lists the due dates for all problem sets. You will be notified in class when changes are made to the schedule.

Problem sets are due **by Midnight** and should be submitted on WebCampus. If you are asked to draw graphs in the problem set, you are expected to figure out how to neatly put the graph on your problem set document. Pictures of hand drawn graphs will be accepted **ONLY IF** the picture is cropped to only include the graph. If the picture is not clear, it will not be accepted. Your problem set answers should be presented in a professional manner.

Late problem sets will not be accepted. The solutions to the problem sets will be posted on the WebCampus course site.

The homework's are scheduled as follows:

Homework 1	Due Sunday, September 6th at 11:59 PM
Homework 2	Due Sunday, September 20th at 11:59 PM
Homework 3	Due Sunday, October 18th at 11:59 PM
Homework 4	Due Friday, October 23rd at 11:59 PM
Homework 5	Due Sunday, November 29th at 11:59 PM
Homework 6	Due Sunday, December 6th at 11:59 PM

Application Paper:

You will be writing two papers (1-2 pages) on articles or podcasts that relate to the course material. The papers are scheduled as follows:

Application Paper 1	Due Friday, October 30th at 11:59 PM
Application Paper 2	Due Friday, December 4th at 11:59 PM

Late reports will **NOT** be accepted. Please see the application paper handout for more details.

Exams:

There will be two mid-semester exams and a cumulative final in this course.

All the exams will be taken via WebCampus and will be proctored through Proctorio. Please make sure your computer has a working camera and you have enabled the Proctorio add-in. You will be required to show identification in order to start the exams and you will be monitored via webcam and microphone.

You will have the entire day to take each exam (including the final). You do not have to pre-schedule the exam, but please make sure you start the exam well before it closes to ensure your time is not cut short.

You will have 80 minutes to complete the mid-semester exams and 130 minutes to complete the final.

Exam 1 will be open from 5 AM until 11:59 PM on Wednesday, September 23rd.

Exam 2 will be open from 5 AM until 11:59 PM on Monday, October 26th.

The Final will be open from 5 AM until 11:59 PM on Monday, December 14th.

There will be no make-up exams for missed exams.

Grading Criteria, Scale, and Standards:

Scores in seven major performance areas will determine your grade:

Class Participation	5%
Homework	10%
Application Paper	20%
Mid-semester Exams	40%
Final Exam	25%

Course letter grades will be assigned on a straight scale. There will not be any curving of the final grade.

A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92.9
B+	87 – 89.9
B	84 – 86.9

B-	80 – 83.9
C+	77 – 79.9
C	74 – 76.9
C-	70 – 73.9

D+	67 – 69.9
D	64 – 66.9
D-	60 – 63.9
F	< 60

Course Calendar or Topics Outline:

Week	Date	Topics	Reading	Homework Due at 11:59 PM
1	8/24, 8/26	Introduction What is Environmental Economics? Review of Competitive Markets	Chapter 2	
2	8/31, 9/2	Review of Competitive Markets Market Failures	Chapter 2	HW 1 Due 9/6
3	9/9	Market Failures	Chapter 3	
4	9/14, 9/16			HW 2 Due 9/20
5	9/21			
Exam 1 – Wednesday, September 23rd				
6	9/28, 9/30	Potential Solutions: Command-and-Control Policies	Chapter 4	
7	10/5, 10/7	Potential Solutions: Market-based Policies	Chapter 5	
8	10/12, 10/14			HW 3 Due 10/18
9	10/19, 10/21			HW 4 Due 10/23
Exam 2 – Monday, October 26th				
10	10/28	Carbon tax vs. Cap-and-Trade	pp. 318-322 CRS Report (2009) CBO Study (2008)	Paper 1 Due 10/30
11	11/2, 11/4			
12	11/9, 11/11	Present value and dynamic efficiency	Chapter 9	
13	11/16, 11/18	Cost-Benefit Analysis	Chapters 8 & 9	HW 5 Due 11/29
14	11/23			
15	11/30, 12/2			Paper 2 Due 12/4
16	12/7	Review		HW 6 Due 12/6
Final Exam - Monday, December 14th				

University Policies

Statement on Academic Dishonesty:

"The University Academic Standards Policy defines academic dishonesty, and mandates specific sanctions for violations. See the University Academic Standards policy: [UAM 6,502](#)."

Statement of Disability Services:

"Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or the [Disability Resource Center](#) (Pennington Achievement Center Suite 230) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations."

This course may leverage 3rd party web/multimedia content, if you experience any issues accessing this content, please notify your instructor.

Statement for Academic Success Services:

"Your student fees cover usage of the [Math Center](#) (775) 784-4433, [Tutoring Center](#) (775) 784-6801, and [University Writing Center](#) (775) 784-6030. These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student."

Statement on Audio and Video Recording:

"Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded."

The University of Nevada, Reno is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment for all. If you believe you have experienced discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, whether on or off campus, or need information related to immigration concerns, please contact the University's Equal Opportunity & Title IX office at 775-784-1547. Resources and interim measures are available to assist you. For more information, please visit the [Equal Opportunity and Title IX](#) page.