

ECON 307/AGSC 307: Environmental Economics

Fall 2021

Course Information

Professor Information:

Professor: Dr. Katherine Lacy

Office: AB 319E

Phone: 775-682-9370

Email: katherinelacy@unr.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM and by appointment

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 class if you do not follow classroom etiquette.**

Course Description:

Monday and Wednesday 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM in AB 201

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

Course Pre-requisites:

ECON 102

Textbook and course materials:

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

The textbook is **optional** 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.

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 class participation. Your participation grade will be broken up into two categories: 1) class discussions - 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 and 2) class handouts – these will be problems solved in class and graded on effort (0 = no effort, 1 = half completed, 2 = fully completed).

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 for discussions:

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 5th at 11:59 PM
Homework 2	Due Sunday, September 19th at 11:59 PM
Homework 3	Due Sunday, October 17th at 11:59 PM
Homework 4	Due Friday, October 22nd at 11:59 PM
Homework 5	Due Sunday, November 28th at 11:59 PM
Homework 6	Due Sunday, December 5th 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 29th at 11:59 PM
Application Paper 2	Due Friday, December 3rd 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.

You will have 75 minutes to complete the mid-semester exams and 120 minutes to complete the final.

Exam 1	Wednesday, September 22nd
Exam 2	Monday, October 25th
Final Exam	Monday, December 13th from 9:50 AM – 11:50 AM

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	15%
Homework	10%
Application Paper	20%
Mid-semester Exams	35%
Final Exam	20%

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	8/23, 8/25	Introduction What is Environmental Economics? Review of Competitive Markets	Chapter 2	
2	8/30, 9/1	Review of Competitive Markets Market Failures	Chapter 2	HW 1 Due 9/5
3	9/8	Market Failures	Chapter 3	
4	9/13, 9/15			HW 2 Due 9/19
5	9/20			
Exam 1 – Wednesday, September 22nd				
6	9/27, 9/29	Potential Solutions: Command-and-Control Policies	Chapter 4	
7	10/4, 10/6	Potential Solutions: Market-based Policies	Chapter 5	
8	10/11, 10/13			HW 3 Due 10/17
9	10/18, 10/20			HW 4 Due 10/22
Exam 2 – Monday, October 25th				
10	10/28	Carbon tax vs. Cap-and-Trade	pp. 318-322 CRS Report (2009) CBO Study (2008)	Paper 1 Due 10/29
11	11/1, 11/3			
12	11/8, 11/10	Present value and dynamic efficiency	Chapter 9	
13	11/15, 11/17	Cost-Benefit Analysis	Chapters 8 & 9	HW 5 Due 11/28
14	11/22			
15	11/29, 12/1			Paper 2 Due 12/3
16	12/6			HW 6 Due 12/5
Final Exam - Monday, December 13th from 9:50 AM – 11:50 AM				

University Policies

Statement on COVID-19 Policies

Face Coverings

In response to COVID-19, and in alignment local, state, and U.S. Center for Disease Control guidelines, face coverings are required at all times in all UNR indoor public spaces, including classroom, laboratory, studio, creative space, or any type of in-person instructional activity, and public spaces. Furthermore, individuals who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID 19 are required to wear a face covering at all times while on campus, including all indoor and outdoor public spaces.

A “face covering” is defined as a “covering that fully covers a person’s nose and mouth, including without limitation, cloth face mask, surgical mask, towels, scarves, and bandanas” (State of Nevada Emergency Directive 024).

Students that cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability, or who are unable to remove a mask without assistance may seek an accommodation through the Disability Resource Center.

Social Distancing

In alignment with State of Nevada guidelines, social distancing is no longer required.

Disinfecting Your Learning Space

Disinfecting supplies are provided for you to disinfect your learning space. You may also use your own disinfecting supplies.

COVID-19, COVID-19 Like Symptoms, and Contact with Someone Testing Positive for COVID-19

Students testing positive for COVID 19, exhibiting COVID 19 symptoms regardless of vaccination status will not be allowed to attend in-person instructional activities and must leave the venue immediately. Students should contact the [Student Health Center](#) or their health care provider to receive care and who can provide the latest direction on quarantine and self-isolation. Contact your instructor immediately to make instructional and learning arrangements.

Accommodations for COVID 19 Quarantined Students

For students who are required to quarantine or self-isolate due to 1) COVID 19 infection or 2) exposure while not vaccinated, instructors must provide opportunities to make-up missed course work, including assignments, quizzes or exams. In courses with mandatory attendance policies, instructors must not penalize students for missing classes while quarantined.

Failure to Comply with Policy (including as outlined in this Syllabus) or Directives of a University Employee

In accordance with section 6,502 of the University Administrative Manual, a student may receive academic and disciplinary sanctions for failure to comply with policy, including this syllabus, for failure to comply with the directions of a University Official, for disruptive behavior in the classroom, or any other prohibited action. “Disruptive behavior” is defined in part as behavior, including but not limited to failure to follow course, laboratory or safety rules, or endangering the health of others. A student may be dropped from class at any time for misconduct or disruptive behavior in the classroom upon recommendation of the instructor and with approval of the college dean. A student may also receive disciplinary sanctions through the Office of Student Conduct for misconduct or disruptive behavior, including endangering the health of others, in the classroom. The student shall not receive a refund for course fees or tuition.

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

Statement on Academic Dishonesty:

You are expected to follow all assignment policies, be honest and submit your own work throughout this course. The use of “study assistance” websites such as Chegg, Course Hero, Brainly, etc. is strictly prohibited on ALL assignments. While you may work on the Homework with your classmates, you may NOT seek assistance on the quizzes and exams from anyone besides Dr. Lacy. If you are caught cheating you will be charged with Academic Dishonesty. Please see the University Statement below with a link to the specific UAM section.

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

WARNING: I check Chegg to make sure my exam questions are not present on their website before, during, and after the exam. My exams are also designed to easily identify cheaters. I take exam integrity VERY seriously and most exam cheating situations results in the student receiving a permanent F in the course.

I do understand that this course can be challenging, but that is no excuse for cheating. I made the pre-recorded videos so you can watch and re-watch them at your own pace. I am also available to meet via zoom to review the material you are struggling with. It is in your best interest to come to me for assistance and not rely on websites like Chegg for assistance. Being provided the answers does not aide in your learning of the material. Also, many Chegg answers and steps to solving a problem are incorrect, which is why it is very easy to identify Chegg users.

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:

Student-created Recordings

"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."

Instructor-created Recordings

Class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to review and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live to view. Students who participate with their camera on or who use a profile image are consenting to have their video or image recorded. If you do not consent to have your profile or video image recorded, keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Students who un-mute during class and participate orally are consenting to have their voices recorded. If you do not consent to have your voice recorded during class, keep your mute button activated and only communicate by using the "chat" feature, which allows you to type questions and comments live.

Statement on Failure to Comply with Policy (including as outlined in this Syllabus) or Directives of a University Employee:

"In accordance with section 6,502 of the University Administrative Manual, a student may receive academic and disciplinary sanctions for failure to comply with policy, including this syllabus, for failure to comply with the directions of a University Official, for disruptive behavior in the classroom, or any other prohibited action. "Disruptive behavior" is defined in part as behavior, including but not limited to failure to follow course, laboratory or safety rules, or endangering the health of others. A student may be dropped from class at any time for misconduct or disruptive behavior in the classroom upon recommendation of the instructor and with approval of the college dean. A student may also receive disciplinary sanctions through the Office of Student Conduct for misconduct or disruptive behavior, including endangering the health of others, in the classroom. The student shall not receive a refund for course fees or tuition."

Statement on Maintaining a Safe Learning and Work Environment

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.