

**San José State University**  
**ENVS/ECON 107, Environmental Economics and Policy**  
**Fall 2016**

**Instructor:** Duran Fiack  
**Office Location:** WSQ 111B  
**Email:** duran.fiack@sjsu.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tues. & Thurs. 1:00-2:00 pm, Wed. 3:30-4:30 pm or by appointment  
**Class Days/Time:** Wed 6:00 - 8:45 pm  
**Classroom:** Boccardo Business Center 105  
**Prerequisites:** ECON 1B or Instructor Consent

**Canvas**

All coursework, lectures, assignments, and additional readings will be published on the [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any course updates.

For help with logging into Canvas please [Student Canvas Login Information](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/Canvas-Student%20Login%20Information.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/Canvas-Student%20Login%20Information.pdf>.

**Course Description**

Throughout the course we will review basic economic concepts, and examine the way environmental and ecological economists use and adapt neoclassical economic tools to develop environmental policy and address environmental issues. Topics include property rights and externalities, valuation, natural resource consumption (nonrenewable and renewable), pollution, and sustainable development.

*Catalog description*

Analysis of basic economic and political factors related to the environmental crisis. Surveys policy approaches to the problem: regulation, taxes, subsidies, benefit-cost analysis.

**Course Goals**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to environmental and ecological economics, and provide a firm understanding of how these disciplines can be applied to address environmental issues. We will examine the economic underpinnings of environmental problems by exploring case studies on various topics. We will review, extend, criticize, and develop the basic economic tools that all students of environmental policy must understand.

## Course Learning Objectives

In this course we will explore political and economic aspects of pollution, renewable and non-renewable resource consumption. Students will learn to formulate conclusions by applying the basic concepts and tools from environmental economics, and develop an understanding of how such conclusions can be used to guide environmental policy.

Throughout the semester, we will also work on learning basic functions of Excel (or whatever your preferred spreadsheet software is). A basic and applied understanding of spreadsheet software will be valuable for this course, as well as for the future.

## Required Texts/Readings

**Harris, J.M. and B. Roach. 2014. *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: A Contemporary Approach* (3rd Edition). Routledge: New York, New York.**

## Additional Readings

Additional readings will be made available to students electronically on Canvas. These readings will be assigned during the semester. It is your responsibility to pay attention to announcements on additional readings, which will be made in class.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

This is a participation-intensive course that relies on your consistent and active engagement. In case of an emergency, please do everything in your power to contact me prior to missing class or assignments.

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Assignments include reading for class, homework assignments, preparation for exams, and occasional pre-class quizzes. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 5-hours of work outside the classroom. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes.

**Homework assignments (300 pts):** There will be a series of homework assignments throughout the semester that you will complete and submit on Canvas. You are responsible for accessing Canvas and completing assignments by the due date. Assignments are designed to reinforce important concepts from the reading and lecture material.

I will drop the lowest score from your total. I will only accept late work in cases of extreme medical or family emergency.

**Participation (100 pts):** The course requires participation in class. Participation includes being prepared for class (completing readings assigned for that day), participating in class discussion, doing well on pre-class quizzes, and most importantly asking questions and participating in discussions during class.

**Midterm (250 pts):** The midterm will assess your understanding of the course material, including readings, homework assignments, and lectures.

**Final (350 pts):** The final will assess your understanding of the course material, including readings, homework assignments, and lectures. The final exam will be cumulative, but will focus heavily on the second half of the class.

## Grading Policy

### Grading

Homework Assignments (10 assignments, 30% of Grade): 300 pts

Class Participation (10% of Grade): 100 pts

Midterm Exam (25% of Grade): 250 pts

Final Exam (35% of Grade): 350 pts

-----  
Total: 1,000 points

### Letter grades will be assigned according to the following point scale:

A	1000-925 points	A-	924-895 points		
B+	894-865 points	B	864-825 points	B-	824-795 points
C+	794-765 points	C	764-725 points	C-	724-695 points
D+	694-665 points	D	664-625 points	D-	624-595 points
F	594-0 points				

### Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to attend all lectures and arrive to class on time. Participation in classroom discussions is an important component of the course, and so students are expected to have completed the required reading for each lecture prior to class meetings. Laptop use during lecture is acceptable, however, use of cellphones is discouraged. Use of electronic devices may be prohibited if usage becomes disruptive.

### University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

## ENVS/ECON 107 / Environmental Economics and Policy

*This schedule is subject to change with fair notice via Canvas and/or email and/or class announcement.*

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	8/24	Course Overview	Syllabus	
2	8/31	The Economy and the Environment	CH 1	Assignment 1 Due
3	9/7	The Economy and the Environment Wealth, Growth and Sustainability	CH 1 & CH 2	Assignment 2 Due
4	9/14	Basic Economics: Supply & Demand Basic Economics: Markets, Assumptions  Intro to Excel	Appendix 3.1  <b>BRING LAPTOP</b>	
5	9/21	Externalities & Property Rights Property Rights & Public Goods	Ch. 3 Ch. 4	
6	9/28	Resource Allocation Over Time Valuing the Environment	Ch. 5 Ch. 6	Assignments 3 & 4 Due
7	10/5	Valuing the Environment Ecological Economics: Basic Concepts	Ch. 6 Ch. 7	Assignment 5 Due
8	10/12	Ecological Economics: National Income & Environmental Accounting <b>MIDTERM REVIEW</b>	Ch. 8	Assignment 6 Due
9	10/19	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> Issues in Env. Econ: Population	Ch. 9	
10	10/26	Issues in Env. Econ: Agriculture Issues in Env. Econ: Non-Renewable Resources	Ch. 10 Ch. 11	Assignment 7 Due
11	11/2	Issues in Env. Econ: Energy Future Issues in Env. Econ: Fisheries	Ch. 12 Ch. 13	
12	11/9	Issues in Env. Econ: Forests Issues in Env. Econ: Water	Ch. 14 Ch. 15	Assignment 8 Due
13	11/16	Issues in Env. Econ: Pollution Greening the Economy	Ch. 16 Ch. 17	Assignment 9 Due
14	<b>11/23</b>	<b>Non-Instructional Day</b>		
15	11/30	Issues in Env. Econ: Climate Change Issues in Env. Econ: World trade	Ch. 18 & 19 Ch. 20	Assignment 10 Due
16	12/7	Sustainable Development <b>FINAL REVIEW</b>	TBA	
	<b>12/14</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM 5:15-7:30 pm</b>		