



Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2010-2011

Environmental Economics (F000543)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 **Study time** 150.0 h **Contact hrs** 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2010-2011

A (semester 1) lecture 45.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2010-2011

Verbeke, Tom EB01 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2010-2011

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Economics	5	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Economics	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Economics	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Economic analysis, environmental policy, economic instruments

Level

advanced

Position of the course

The course presents an economic analysis of environmental problems and environmental policy options. Building blocks are the undersupply of public goods, the theory of externalities and market failure versus government failure. With respect to policy analysis, the use of instruments in environmental policy (technical regulation, charges, systems of emissions trading and voluntary agreements) is assessed., Several current international environmental policy issues are introduced and elaborated in the course.

Contents

The following topics are dealt with:

- 1 Valuing the environment: concepts
- 2 Valuing the environment: methods
- 3 Property rights, externalities and Environmental problems
- 4 Sustainable development: defining the concept
- 5 Natural resource economics: an overview
- 6 Environmental Economics: an overview
- 7 Stationary-source local air pollution
- 8 Acid rain and atmospheric modification
- 9 Transportation
- 10 Water pollution
- 11 Solid Waste and Recycling
- 12 Toxic substances and hazardous waste
- 13 Development, poverty and the environment
- 14 The quest for sustainable development

Initial competences

An introductory course of economics and micro-economics.

Final competences

Being able to apply economic analysis on various environmental problems.
Being able to assess market failure with respect to environmental policy.

Being able to compare different instruments for environmental policy (efficiency, cost-effectiveness, feasibility,...).

A specific objective for the students is the understanding of economic analysis as part of a broader socio-political context with specific characteristics like government failure.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Teaching methods

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Ex cathedra teaching. Students are invited to discussion. The students are expected to attend the Flemish Scientific Conference 2010 which is organized at the Faculty of Economics and to participate in its session on Energy and Climate.

Learning materials and price

Tietenberg, T. (2006). Environmental Economics and Policy. Pearson Education, 5th edition. Cost: 15 EUR

References

- 'Environmental Economics, An Elementary Introduction', R.Turner, D.Pearce and I. Bateman (Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1994)
- 'Environmental Economics', C.D.Kolstad (Oxford University Press, 2000)
- 'Environmental and Resources Economics, An Introduction', M.Common, (Longman, 1996)

Course content-related study coaching

The lecturer as well as an assistant can provide additional information for students. Hand-outs will be available through Minerva. Background material will be also be published through the courses Minerva site.

Evaluation methods

periodic evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam to assess the ability of the student to present an economic analysis of an environmental problem.

The questions will force the student to construct a consistent economic argumentation and to compare various options or approaches.

Calculation of the examination mark