GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2018-2019

Environmental Economics and Policy (F000752)

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

Credits	6.0	Study time	180 h
Contact hrs	45.0 h		

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	Dutch	group work	5.0 h
		lecture	45.0 h
B (semester 2)		lecture	45.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Bleys, Brent	EB21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Business Economics (main subject Accountancy)	6	A
Master of Science in Business Economics (main subject Corporate Finance)	6	A
Master of Science in Business Economics (main subject Marketing)	6	A
Master of Science in Biochemistry and Biotechnology	4	B
Master of Science in Biochemistry and Biotechnology	4	B
Master of Science in Biology	4	B
Master of Science in Biology	4	B
Master of Science in Physics and Astronomy	4	B
Master of Science in Geography	4	B
Master of Science in Geomatics and Surveying	4	B
Master of Science in Computer Science	4	B
Master of Science in Complementary Studies in Economics	6	A
Master of Science in Bioscience Engineering: Environmental Technology	4	B

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

environmental policy and instruments, economic valuation of environmental goods, environmental policy principles, market failure and government failure, ecological economics, sustainable development

Position of the course

The course introduces an economic analysis of environmental problems and environmental policy. Its main building blocks include the undersupply of public goods, the theory of externalities and market failure versus government failure. With respect to policy analysis, the use of economic instruments in environmental policy (command-and-control, charges, systems of emissions trading and voluntary agreements) is assessed using a series of criteria. Next, we focus on different approaches to estimate the costs and benefits of environmental policy and we look at different methods to determine the optimal level of policy interventions. Finally a number of additional topics will be discussed (e.g. Beyond GDP, ecological economics, sustainable development) and integrated in the environmental economics framework.

Contents

1 Introduction: economics and the environment
2 Modelling environmental problems

2.1 Introduction to microeconomics
2.2 General model for environmental economics
3 Modelling environmental policy
3.1 Criteria for environmental instruments
3.2 Decentral instruments
3.3 Central instruments
3.4 Enforcement
4 Analysis of environmental policy
4.1 Measuring benefits
4.2 Measuring costs
4.3 Decision methods
4.4 Applications of Cost-Benefit Analysis
5 Additional topics: For example: Beyond GDP, decoupling and footprint accounts, sustainable development, ecological economics

Initial competences

An introductory course of microeconomics.

Final competences

1 Apply economic analysis on environmental problems - externalities and market failure.
2 Understand the problems with the supply of public goods and free-riding.
3 Understand the different decentralized and centralized tools for environmental policy-making.
4 Compare different instruments for environmental policy (effectiveness, efficiency, feasibility, political acceptability).
5 Understand the different methods to value the costs and benefits of environmental policy.
6 Understand the value of a social cost-benefit analysis.
7 Compare environmental economics to related fields (ecological economics and sustainable development).

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 unrestricted

Teaching methods

Group work, lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Ex cathedra teaching.
Environmental economics and policy (4SP): no assignment

Learning materials and price

Handouts of the lectures will be available at Minerva. The course is structured according to the textbook “Inleiding tot de milieueconomie”, S. Proost en S. Rousseau, 2017. Price of the textbook: 47,5€.
Additional material (papers, policy documents, ...) will be made available through Minerva

References

- Inleiding tot de milieueconomie, S. Proost en S. Rousseau, 2017, Acco, ISBN: 9789463441957
- Milieu en milieubehoud, A. Verbruggen en S. Van Passel, 2016, Garant, ISBN: 9789044134704
- Environmental and Natural Resources Economics (9th Edition), T. Tietenberg and L. Lewis, 2011, Pearson Eduction, ISBN: 9780131392571

Course content-related study coaching

Hand-outs will be available through Minerva.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Assignment, peer assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam (closed book).
Environmental economics and policy (4SP): no assignment

Calculation of the examination mark

Environmental economics and policy (4SP): end-of-term evaluation (100%).
Environmental economics and policy (6SP): end-of-term evaluation (75%); permanent evaluation (25%).