

# EC313 Environmental and Resource Economics

Seminar Leader: Dr. Sven Fischer

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10 – 12 A.M. (online); Fridays on campus by appointment

## Course Description

The course centers on the economic analysis of environmental issues. We will start by addressing market failures related to the environment and to the management of natural resources. Throughout the course we will discuss both global and local environmental issues (e.g., global and local resources held in common, energy production, climate change, water pollution, overfishing, etc.). Our goal will be to review and critique the policy instruments provided by economics and management science to overcome market failures. We also confront the practical issues affecting the application of these instruments, including the question of how monetary values can be assigned to environmental goods.

## Requirements

### Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

### Accommodations

Bard College Berlin is committed to inclusion and providing equal access to all students; we uphold and maintain all aspects of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 3 of the German Disability Equality Act of April 27, 2002 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1468). If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, Atticus Kleen, ([accommodations@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:accommodations@berlin.bard.edu)) to request an official accommodation.

Requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible to ensure adequate time for coordination and planning. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and may require advance notice to implement.

If you have already been approved for accommodations with the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, please arrange to meet with me outside of class so that we can develop an implementation plan.

Students may face extenuating circumstances related to various personal or external factors, which impact their academic performance. While these circumstances often do not fall within the legal framework of Disability Accommodations, Bard College Berlin is committed to supporting students experiencing such circumstances. A student needing a short extension or a replacement assignment because of an extenuating circumstance is encouraged to make arrangements directly with instructors if possible. If further support is needed, please visit the [Bard College Berlin Accessibility page](#). Questions about this process can be directed to James Harker (j.harker@berlin.bard.edu) or Maria Anderson-Long (m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu).

### **Attendance**

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

Bard College Berlin may not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

### **Assessment**

The assessment for weeks 1-7 consists of following parts:

- Participation
- Presentation slides and oral presentation
- Midterm essay

The assessment for weeks 8-14 consists of following parts:

- Participation
- Final essay

The final assessment will be based on all the above-mentioned parts. The deadlines and dates of assessments are mentioned under “Schedule” and “Essay Deadlines” of this syllabus.

### **Assignments**

Three assessment parts can be considered as assignments, namely presentation slides, midterm essay, and final essay, which should not exceed the 7000-word limit.

The presentation should be 15-20 minutes followed by a discussion of 5-10 minutes which will be moderated by the presenting student, and the presentation slides must be prepared with conventional software and contain 8-10 slides (800-1000 words).

The midterm essay should be 5-7 pages of written text (2100-3000 words), and the final essay should have an additional 5-7 pages of written text (2100-3000 words).

### **Policy on Late Submission of Papers**

Essays that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where a professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it should be submitted by the new deadline agreed upon by both parties. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for

the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

## Grade Breakdown

The percentage grade allotted to each assessment part:

- Participation at the lecture for weeks 1-7 (15%)
- Midterm essay (15%)
- Presentation slides and oral presentation (20%)
- Participation at the lecture for weeks 8-14 (15%)
- Final essay (35%)

The first three points will be used to determine the midterm grades. The final grade will be determined with all five points.

## Schedule

The lecture takes place from 31 January 2025 to 9 May 2025, every Friday, except on 18 April 2025 (Spring Break). The time slot is 14:00 to 17:15. Following table includes more information:

Session	Date	Contents	Literature
1	31.01.2025	1.1. Introduction to the Lecture 1.2. Introduction to Environmental Economics	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 1 & 2)
2	07.02.2025	2.1. Incentives for Conservation 2.2. Introduction to R and RStudio	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 3)
3	14.02.2025  <b>Deadline for the selection of the essay topic</b>	3.1. Valuing the Environment 3.2. Practical Exercises in RStudio on Valuing the Environment	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 4)
4	21.02.2025	<b>No class. The contents of this session will be shifted to sessions 5 and 6.</b>  4.1. Economic Growth, the Environment, and Sustainable Development 4.2. Practical Exercises in RStudio on Economic Growth	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 7)
5	28.02.2025	5.1. Non-renewable and Renewable Natural Resources 5.2. Practical Exercises in RStudio on Natural Resources	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapters 9&10)

6	07.03.2025	6.1. The Political Economy of Natural Resources 6.2. Practical Exercises in RStudio on the Curse of Natural Resources	tba.
	13.03.2025 <b>Deadline for the submission of the midterm essay and presentation slides</b>		
7	14.03.2025 <b>Day of Assessment</b>	<b>7. Student Presentations</b>	
8	21.03.2025 <b>Midterm Grades</b>	8.1. The Economics of Climate Change 8.2. Practical Exercises in RStudio using Weather Data	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 12)
9	28.03.2025	9.1. The Economics of Water Quality Improvement 9.2. The Economics of Household Waste and Recycling	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 13 & 14)
10	04.04.2025	10.1. The Political Economy of Natural Disasters 10.2. Practical Exercises in RStudio using Natural Disaster Data	tba.
11	11.04.2025	11.1. Energy and the Environment 11.2. The Political Economy of Corruption and Shadow Economy	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 15)
	18.04.2025	Spring Break (14 April – 22 April)	
12	25.04.2025	12.1. Civil Society and Environmental Protection 12.2. Practical Exercises in RStudio on Environmental Activism	tba.
13	02.05.2025 <b>Deadline for the submission of the final essay</b>	13.1. Trade and the Environment 13.2. Practical Exercises in RStudio with Trade Data	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 11)
14	09.05.2025	14.1. Wrap-up of Lecture 14.2. Summary of R-Codes & Outlook	

## **Essay Deadlines**

The following deadlines must be considered for the essays:

- 14 February 2025: Selection of essay topic
- 13 March 2025: Submission of midterm essay and presentation slides
- 14 March 2025: Presentation of results from midterm essay
- 2 May 2025: Submission of final essay

## **Grades Submission**

All grades are submitted digitally to the Registrar's Office.

## **Library and Book Purchase Policies**

The main textbook for the lecture is "Introduction to Environmental Economics" (Third Edition) by Hanley, Shogren, and White (2019). It is recommended that students purchase this book. Other reading materials are available online under open-access licenses and will be announced during the lecture.