Bard College Berlin
A LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

EC313 Environmental Economics

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Office Hours: 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 criticize the policy instruments provided by economics and management science to overcome market failures. We also confront practical issues affecting the application of these instruments, including the question of how monetary values can be assigned to environmental goods.

Requirements

There are no prerequisites for this lecture, but it is recommended that students have some basic knowledge of economics and statistics. It is expected that students will participate regularly, will actively engage in the discussions in class, and will follow all defined deadlines related to course assignments.

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) 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.

The use of cell phones is not allowed during classes. Please leave your cell phone in your bag during the classes.

Assessment

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

- Regular, active participation and preparation for classes
- Presentation slides and oral presentation
- Midterm essay

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

- Regular, active participation and preparation for classes
- 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 together 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 will receive feedback for their course work during and at the end of the semester. 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 using all five points. Attendance at all final presentations is mandatory to pass the course.

Schedule

The lecture takes place from 1 September 2026 to 10 December 2026, every Tuesday and Thursday, except on 20 and 22 October 2026 (Fall Break). The time slot is 14:00 to 15:30. Following table includes more information the individual sessions (subject to change):

Session	Date	Contents	Literature
1	01.09.2026	Introduction to the Lecture	
2	03.09.2026	Introduction to Environmental Economics	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 1)
3	08.09.2026	Markets and the Environment	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 2)
4	10.09.2026	Introduction to Stata	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 2)
	14.09.2026 **Deadline for the selection of the essay topic**		

5	15.09.2026	Valuing the Environment	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 4)
6	17.09.2026	Practical Exercises in Stata on Valuing the Environment	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 3&4)
7	22.09.2026	Economic Growth, the Environment, and Sustainable Development	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 7)
8	24.09.2026	Practical Exercises in Stata on Economic Growth	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 3&4)
9	29.09.2026	Incentives for Conservation	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 3)
10	01.10.2026	How to Write an Economic Essay	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 10&11)
11	06.10.2026	Non-renewable and Renewable Natural Resources	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapters 9&10)
12	08.10.2026	Practical Exercises in Stata on Natural Resources	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 3&4)
	12.10.2026 **Deadline for the submission of the midterm essay and presentation slides**		
13	13.10.2026 **Day of Assessment**	**Student Presentations**	
14	15.10.2026 **Day of Assessment**	**Student Presentations**	
	20.10.2026 & 22.10.2026	Fall Break (19 October – 25 October)	
15	27.10.2026	The Political Economy of Natural Resources	Ross (2012) (Chapter 1)
16	29.10.2026	Practical Exercises in Stata on the Curse of Natural Resources	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 3&4)
17	03.11.2026	Trade and the Environment	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 11)
18	05.11.2026	Introduction to Regression Analysis in Stata	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 5&6)
19	10.11.2026	The Economics of Climate Change	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 12)

20	12.11.2026	Practical Exercises in Stata using Weather Data	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 5&6)
21	17.11.2026	The Economics of Water Quality Improvement	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 13)
22	19.11.2026	The Economics of Household Waste and Recycling	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 14)
23	24.11.2026	The Political Economy of Natural Disasters	Fischer (2023)
24	26.11.2026	Practical Exercises in Stata using Natural Disaster Data	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 5&6)
	30.11.2026 **Deadline for the submission of the final essay**		
25	01.12.2026	Natural Disasters and Environmental Values	Fischer and Patterson (2026)
26	03.12.2026	Practical Exercises in Stata on Environmental Values	Bittmann (2019) (Chapter 5&6)
27	08.12.2026	Energy and the Environment	Hanley et al. (2019) (Chapter 15)
28	10.12.2026	Wrap-up of Lecture, Summary of Stata Codes, and Outlook	

The Fall semester runs from Monday, August 31 and runs until Friday, December 18, with the Fall break planned from Monday, October 19, - Sunday, October 25, 2026.

- Normal course sessions end on Friday, December 11.
- Completion week is from Monday, December 14 through Friday, December 18.
- Make-up classes and final exams can take place in completion week.
- Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Classes missed due to federal holidays will not be rescheduled.

Essay Deadlines

The following deadlines must be considered for the essays:

- 14 September 2026: Selection of essay topic
- 12 October 2026: Submission of midterm essay and presentation slides
- 13 & 15 October 2026: Presentation of results from midterm essay
- 30 November 2026: 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. Several copies are also available in the BCB library.

Another important book for the lecture is “Stata: A Really Short Introduction” by Felix Bittmann (2019). It is recommended that students purchase this book.

Additionally, the practical exercises in the lecture and the assessment require that students have access to the statistical software Stata. It is recommended that students purchase a student’s license for Stata.

Other reading materials are available online under open-access licenses and will be announced during the lecture.