

Introduction to Environmental & Resource Economics

ARE 336 / EC 336

North Carolina State University

Spring 2021

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TAs: Richard Li
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NOTE: All grade-related issues should be directed initially to one of the TAs.

Objective: We will survey economic perspectives on environmental and resource problems. In the process, you will learn how to think about timely policy issues from an economic perspective. My hope is that you will gain an appreciation for how economics can improve environmental and resource policy and, more generally, our society.

Prerequisites: EC/ARE 201/205 (i.e., introductory microeconomics with graphs and some algebra)

Class Website: Moodle.

Class Schedule: This course is 100% online. Our weekly schedule will be as follows:

Mondays – Synchronous review sessions will occur at the following times:

Mondays @ 10:40-11:30am for those who are enrolled in Section 001.

Dr. von Haefen will lead this session.

Zoom Address:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/93849452607?pwd=OWVNZ0dPQWw2WUZvNmliNm4xVIRBZz09>

Meeting ID: 938 4945 2607

Passcode: 832145

Mondays @ 4:30-5:20pm for those who are enrolled in Section 002.

Richard Li or Yiqing Liu will lead this session.

Zoom Address:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/99767434382?pwd=eC90WEJkSVJYMWxvNXJ2ZXp0RUx3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 997 6743 4382

Passcode: 806593

These sessions will be used to review class materials, homework, and student questions. We will also ask a few questions in [Tophat](#) (Course Code: 979164). Attendance will be taken. Excessive absences (i.e., more than three) will negatively affect your class participation grade. Note that if you cannot attend your assigned review session, you may attend the other review session and receive credit for attendance.

Wednesdays – Voluntary review sessions that emphasize homework-style problems answer your questions will start at 10:40am and 4:30pm and run for 50 minutes. Attendance will not be taken but is encouraged. The review sessions will use the same Zoom addresses as the Monday review sessions, i.e.:

Wednesdays @ 10:40-11:30am for those who are enrolled in Section 001.

Dr. von Haefen will lead this session.

Zoom Address:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/93849452607?pwd=OWVNZ0dPQWw2WUZvNmliNm4xVIRBZz09>

Meeting ID: 938 4945 2607

Passcode: 832145

Wednesdays @ 4:30-5:20pm for those who are enrolled in Section 002.

Richard Li or Yiqing Liu will lead this session.

Zoom Address:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/99767434382?pwd=eC90WEJkSVJYMWxvNXJ2ZXp0RUx3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 997 6743 4382

Passcode: 806593

Thursdays – Homework must be turned in via Moodle before midnight. No late homework assignments will be accepted, although students who turn in their homework early will get a second chance at the homework with the high score counting. If you fail to turn in a homework assignment, your next homework

assignment will count double, although there will be a 20% deduction for the missed assignment (For example, let's say you do not turn in an assignment in week 2, but you get a 95 on week 3's homework. In this case, you would receive a 75 for week 2's missed assignment and a 95 for week 3's assignment). Note that if you fail to turn in two consecutive homework assignment, you will receive a 0 on the first assignment.

Fridays – New materials posted to Moodle before 10am.

On most weeks, new materials will include Zoom-recorded lectures, lecture notes, reading assignments, example problems, and homework assignments that are due the following week. Before the following Monday's synchronous review session, you are expected to review these materials.

On the remaining weeks where homeworks are not assigned, a 20-question, Moodle-based quiz will be scheduled.

Sundays – Your Packback Questions posts are due before midnight – more details bellow. Also, a short, two-question, Moodle-based quiz is due before midnight. The quiz will be available to students starting Friday morning. These will serve as motivation to review the assigned materials and prepare for the review sessions. If you submit your answers before Sunday at midnight, you will have the option to retake the quiz with your high score counting.

Texts: Keohane, Nathaniel and Sheila Olmstead. *Markets and the Environment*, 2nd Edition. Island Press, 2016. (This text is strongly encouraged.)

The NCSU Bookstore has this text in stock, although it might be cheaper elsewhere. I will place several additional readings on Moodle.

Email: I will regularly send you emails with important class announcements through Moodle. These announcements will also be saved in Moodle.

Grades: Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Homework	35%
Short Quizzes	7.5%
Class Participation	7.5%
Packback Questions	10%
Quiz #1 (Feb. 26)	12.5%
Quiz #2 (Mar. 25)	12.5%
Quiz #3 (Apr. 29)	15%

Note #1: There is no final exam in this course.

Note #2: Quiz and homework grades may be curved at the discretion of the instructor.

Note #3: *Absolutely no make-up quizzes are given.* If you can provide:

- 1) a signed note from your physician describing a medical condition that prevented you from attending a quiz;
- 2) a signed note from the University Counseling Center for a family emergency or death that conflicted with a quiz; or
- 3) a note from the university staff in charge of an event or intercollegiate athletic contest that requires you to be away from campus on the day of a quiz,

the weight of your missed quiz will be shifted to the other quizzes. If you do not produce an acceptable excuse, you will receive a zero on the quiz.

Note #4 - If COVID and the online delivery model have a negative impact on your academic performance in this course, the university has provided tools to potentially reduce the impact:

- **Enhanced S/U Grading Option:** [Enhanced Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory Grading Option](#)
- **Late Drop:** [Enhanced Late Drop Option](#)

In some cases, another option may be to request an incomplete in the course. Before using any of these tools, discuss the options with your instructor and your academic advisor. Be aware that if you use the enhanced S/U, you will still need to complete the course and receive at least a C- to pass the course.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

97.5 to 100	A+
92.5 to 97.5	A
90 to 92.5	A-
87.5 to 90	B+
82.5 to 87.5	B
80 to 82.5	B-
77.5 to 80	C+
72.5 to 77.5	C
70 to 72.5	C-
67.5 to 70	D+
62.5 to 67.5	D
60 to 62.5	D-
Below 60	F

Quizzes:

Your quizzes will be administered in Moodle and be a mix of multiple choice and quantitative questions. During each quiz, you can look at materials on the class Moodle page and your personal notes, but not at anything else. Each quiz will be 20

questions, and you will have 150 minutes. The homework will give you an excellent idea of what to expect on these quizzes. You are expected to complete the quizzes entirely on your own – you will need to agree to the Pack Pledge before starting each quiz. Unlike the homework and short quizzes, you do not have the option to retake the quiz if you finish early.

Helpful
Resources:

If you find yourself in a place where you need help, academically or otherwise, please review this [Step-by-Step Help Topics](#). And here are some additional resources:

Keep Learning: [Keep Learning](#)

Protect the Pack FAQs: [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Protect the Pack](#)

NC State Protect the Pack Resources for Students: [Resources for Students](#) | [Protect the Pack](#)

NC State Keep Learning, tips for students opting to take courses remotely: [Keep Learning Tips for Remote Learning](#)

Introduction to Zoom for students:

<https://youtu.be/5LbPzzPbYEW>

Learning with Moodle, a student's guide to using Moodle:

<https://moodle-projects.wolfware.ncsu.edu/course/view.php?id=226>

NC State Libraries [Technology Lending Program](#)

Academic
Integrity:

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to: cheating, aiding and abetting others to cheat, destruction or removal of academic material without permission, and plagiarism ([NCSU POL11.35.01](#)).

Uploading of student notes or other course documents to external websites or apps that encourage students to share course information is a violation of NC State's copyright regulation. Notes of classroom and laboratory lectures and exercises taken by students shall not be deemed Student Works, may only be used for personal educational purposes, and cannot be used for commercialization by the student generating such notes or by any third party ([NCSU REG 01.25.03](#)).

Students who commit academic misconduct or violate the copyright regulation will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violations of academic integrity will be handled in accordance with the Student Discipline Procedures ([NCSU REG 11.35.02](#)).

Health & Well-
Being Resources

These are difficult times, and academic and personal stress are natural results. Everyone is encouraged to [take care of themselves](#) and their peers. If you need additional support, there are many resources on campus to help you:

- Counseling Center ([NCSU Counseling Center](#))
- Health Center ([Health Services | Student](#))
- If the personal behavior of a classmate concerns or worries you, either for the classmate's well-being or yours, we encourage you to report this behavior to the NC State CARES team: ([Share a Concern](#)).

- If you or someone you know are experiencing food, housing or financial insecurity, please see the Pack Essentials Program ([Pack Essentials](#)).
- If you contract COVID during the semester, please email the instructor so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Community Standards:

We are all responsible for protecting ourselves and our community. Please see the community expectations ([NCSU Community Standards](#)) and Rule 04.21.01 regarding Personal Safety Requirements Related to COVID-19 (<https://policies.ncsu.edu/rule/rul-04-21-01>).

Special Needs:

Any student with a documented disability may request arrangements to accommodate their disability. Such arrangements include the provision of services and reasonable accommodations appropriate to the student's disability. This should be arranged through the DSO office. See the office's website for more information:

<https://dso.dasa.ncsu.edu/>

Incomplete Grades & Withdrawals:

Incomplete grades and class withdrawals will only be granted under exceptional circumstances. University policy will be strictly followed in these matters.

Non-Discrimination Policy:

NC State University promotes equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon one's age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status. This policy will be strictly enforced in this classroom.

Email Etiquette:

All email communications sent to the instructor or TAs must satisfy the following minimal set of etiquette guidelines: 1) the subject line should read: "ARE336: Question from *YOUR NAME*"; 2) in the body of the email, clearly identify the reason for the communication and what action(s) you wish us to take; and 3) be courteous – begin the email with "Dear Dr. von Haefen," "Hello Sir" or the like, and sign the email with your name at the bottom.

Packback Questions

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Packback Requirements:

Your participation on Packback will count toward 10% of your overall course grade.

There will be a weekly Saturday at Midnight deadline for submissions. In order to receive your points per week, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 60, each worth 33.33% of each assignment grade
- 2 Responses per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 60, each worth 66.67% of each assignment grade
- Half credit will be provided for questions and responses that do not meet the minimum curiosity score.

How to Register on Packback:

An email invitation will be sent to you from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://questions.packback.co> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.
2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage.
Community Lookup Key: **754e487d-b721-4628-8e73-ea83c94f0fb6**
3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback will require a paid subscription. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions.