



## AREC 365 COURSE OUTLINE

### NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

In Winter 2024, AREC 365, *Natural Resource and Environmental Economics*, is being offered at Yukon University as part of the Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences, B.Sc. Program. All students registered in AREC 365 must adhere to the requirements outlined in this course syllabus. University of Alberta students must also be aware of, and adhere to, the University's Code of Student Behaviour, referenced in the outline.

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University  
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**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**OFFICE LOCATION:** By phone or Online

**TELEPHONE:** Derek: (867) 332-6636

**E-MAIL:** derekparker@gmail.com

taylor.belansky@yukonu.ca

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**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** Mondays & Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:50 PM from January 3 to April 10, 2023

**CLASS LOCATION:** A2603

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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An introduction to economic analysis of natural resource issues and environmental management, including understanding of resource valuation, the role of economic incentives, and the implications of market failure in natural resource use and policy. Emphasis will be placed on analysis of economic aspects of current natural resource issues and policy, with special focus on the northern Canadian context. The course highlights three key points:

1. human beings exhibit predictable economic behavior in their interaction with the human-built and natural environments,
2. economic analysis can inform the crafting of environmental strategies and policies, and
3. recognizing and measuring environmental non-market goods and services can be useful in mitigating contemporary environmental problems.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Prerequisite(s):** Registration in Yukon University, University of Alberta B.Sc. in Environmental and Conservation Sciences degree program and successful completion of U of Alberta ECON 101, Yukon University ECON 100, or an equivalent Introduction to Microeconomics course.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:**

1. View a broad range of natural resource and environmental problems within a socioeconomic context by introducing the logic and techniques of economic analysis.
2. Identify economic policy dimensions of current-day natural resource and environmental problems.
3. Understand how classical and modern economic thinking and tools are applied to address natural resource and environmental issues.
4. Assess the costs and benefits of alternate approaches to exacerbating or resolving environmental problems.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

### **Weekly breakdown of instructional hours**

This course consists of two 1.5-hour lectures per week. These lectures will focus on (a) reviewing and refining understanding of economics, as it relates to the environment, through lectures and textbook readings over the first 6-7 weeks; (b) group discussions designed to explore concepts in-depth and review applications of economic concepts and policies; (c) practice applying the course learnings through lecture assignments and term

paper discussions and presentations.

### Delivery format

This course will be delivered in a blended format. Unless otherwise specified, Monday lectures will be delivered in-person in room A2603 and Wednesday sessions will be synchronous online discussions, with the option to attend remotely or in-person in A2603.

### EVALUATION

The course grade will be determined as follows:

Assignment	Percent
Course Textbook Readings, Reflection & Questions	10
Lecture Assignment 1	15
Lecture Assignment 2	15
Term Project (Proposal, Peer Review, Presentation, Final Paper)	40
AREC 365 Year-End Test	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Assignments and Tests

To engage in subject material and demonstrate ongoing learning commitment, students are to write and submit brief reflections on chapter readings from the course textbook. Students are also required to include a minimum of one question associated with these readings to highlight learning points that are not clear or to express personal views of agreement or disagreement with text or lecture material. The schedule of readings will be discussed in the first week of lectures. Assignments are to be submitted to the instructor's email address noted above.

The two lecture assignments will be discussed in class but are to be completed individually.

Students will also select one northern environmental economic research topic to research as part of the term paper assignment. Students will be expected to submit a brief proposal of their chosen research topic and plan. The term project will include submitting a draft and participating in an informal peer-review process. Final projects and presentations will be due at the end of the term.

Students must adhere to the citation style used by the Council of Science Editors in all written assignments ([https://guides.library.ualberta.ca/ld.php?content\\_id=16869133](https://guides.library.ualberta.ca/ld.php?content_id=16869133)).

One final 20% test will be administered on the final day of classes (April 8). A list of course learning objectives will be added to the class website identifying topics that should be studied to prepare for this test.

### Due Dates and Late Assignments

Unless otherwise specified, reflections and question(s) are due by 11:59 pm Sunday (local time) for the week in which a chapter reading has been assigned. Other assignments will be due by 11:59 pm (local time) on the specified due date. The Term Project final paper will be due at 11:59 pm local time on April 5, 2023. Late assignments will lose 5% of their mark per day that they are late.

Assignment	Grade (%)	Due Date
Term Project: Proposal	5	January 28
Lecture Assign 1	15	February 18
Term Project: Draft	-	March 3
Term Project: Peer Review	5	March 10
Lecture Assign 2	15	March 17
Term Project: Presentation	10	April 1
Term Project: Final Paper	20	April 5
AREC 365 Final Test	20	April 8 (in-class)

### Assignment of grades

The total numerical score will be converted to a grade on the following letter grading system:

Letter grade	Percentage
A+	95-100
A	90-94
A-	85-89
B+	79-84

<b>B</b>	<b>75-78</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>71-74</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>67-70</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>64-66</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>60-63</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>55-59</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>50-54</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0-49</b>

## **COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION**

Students should refer to the UAlberta calendar for important dates ([calendar.ualberta.ca](http://calendar.ualberta.ca)).

## **TEXTBOOKS AND LEARNING MATERIALS**

Required: Fisher B, Naidoo R, Ricketts T. 2015. *A Field Guide to Economics for Conservationists*. Roberts and Company Publishers. ISBN 978-1-936221-50-9.

Supplementary readings will be provided by the instructor.

## **COURSE WEBSITE**

Lectures, announcements, additional reading, and other material will be available on University of Alberta's eClass system (<https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/portal/>) for download or viewing. Information and support for eClass is available here: <https://support.ctl.ualberta.ca/index.php?/Knowledgebase/List/Index/22/eclass>.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

### **Yukon University Academic Standards and Regulations**

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University

document.

Please refer to YukonU Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

### University of Alberta Academic Integrity and Code of Student Behaviour

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students at the University of Alberta are subject to the Code of Student Behaviour, as outlined at:

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx> Please familiarize yourself with it and ensure that you do not participate in any inappropriate behavior as defined by the Code. Key components of the code include the following statements.

30.3.2(1) No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) c. No Student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student's own work.

### PROFESSIONALISM AND CLASSROOM RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Students are expected to attend all lectures and labs, be engaged and courteous in all course activities, and to be on time for class. Please do not use cellular phones during class. Laptops are permitted for note taking and in-class work; however, please do not use laptops in class for non-class-related activities. While in computer labs, students are expected to refrain from using the computers to engage in non-class-related activities.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Electronic devices are not permitted during the AREC 365 Final Test with the exception of approved non-programmable calculators.

## **RECORDING OF LECTURES, LABS, ETC.**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Please note that some classes in the B.Sc. Northern ENCS Program may be recorded using web conferencing software, and links to recordings may be posted on the class website.

## **ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact [Accessibility Services](https://www.yukonu.ca/student-life/learning-matters/accessibility-services) (<https://www.yukonu.ca/student-life/learning-matters/accessibility-services>) for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: [access@yukonu.ca](mailto:access@yukonu.ca).

## **TOPICS:**

- Intersection of microeconomics, human behaviour and the environment
- Relevance of economic theories and tools to understanding contemporary resource and environmental problems
- Market failure, non-market valuation methods and the concept of utility
- Economic incentives for conservation purposes
- Ecosystem services