

## EconS 430

### Managing the Global Environment - 3 credits

Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Isaac Duah  
215 Hulbert Hall  
Email: Isaac.duah@wsu.edu  
Office Hours: 11-12 Wednesday or by appointment

**Classroom:** Center for Undergraduate Education (CUE) 419, MWF 12:10-1:00

**Class Website:** <http://ses.wsu.edu/econs-430/>

**Recommended Text:** *Markets and the Environment*, Nathaniel O. Keohane and Sheila M. Olmstead. 2007.

**Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:**(No pre-requisites) In this course, we will integrate key concepts in economics with elements of political science, sociology, psychology, philosophy, and several physical sciences to provide insight into several environmental and natural resource issues of global importance. This interdisciplinary approach encourages analyses of these issues from many different perspectives.

A theoretical basis for different resource management systems will be presented including various property right structures, government institutions, and cultural and ethical aspects. Natural resource problems that have been successfully resolved and those that remain in conflict will be examined. Several case studies will be used as a mechanism for bringing the various disciplines together, and to examine the nature of natural resource management.

We will examine resource questions focused at different jurisdictional levels: local, regional and global. Each of these scales will shed light on some resource management of global importance. Local issues are specific to a localized area, but similar concerns exist in many areas. Or, local issues may be a local issue with wide-reaching ramifications. Regional concerns include resource issues that arise due in part to the trans-boundary nature of the issue. Many institutions may share in the management of the resource. Global issues include those concerns that affect many regions, and require a global approach to management.

The primary academic goals of this course are to:

1. Increase appreciation for the way economics interacts with the content and approaches taken in political science, sociology, psychology, philosophy, and physical sciences to address environmental and natural resource management issues.

2. Identify successful resource management situations and resource conflicts and the aspects that contribute to the definition and degree of successful management.
3. Apply key social science concepts to specific global environmental and resource issues.

The primary student learning goals of this course are to:

1. Improve critical thinking by identifying and using multiple practical and disciplinary frameworks to address environmental and natural resource issues of global interest.
2. Strengthen various types of communication skills.

### **Presentation:**

Students will participate as a group member making an in-class presentation concerning a natural resource issue. The presentation will require each group to demonstrate one of the concepts from class (determined by the instructor) by leading the class in an exercise designed and implemented by the group.

### **Exams:**

Two mid-term exams and a final exam will be given. The exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. No translators will be allowed. The final exam is comprehensive. According to WSU policy, no early final exams will be administered without written permission from the CAHNRS Director of Academic Programs, 423 Hulbert Hall.

Exam 1 – Monday, October 1 in class

Exam 2 – Wednesday, October 31 in class

Final exam – TBD in CUE 419

### **Disability Resource Accommodation:**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Access Center (Washington Building 217) or call 509-335-3417 to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations MUST be approved through the Access Center. Please see <http://accesscenter.wsu.edu> for more information or email [Access.Center@wsu.edu](mailto:Access.Center@wsu.edu).

**Grading:**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Presentation -----                      | 20% |
| Exam 1-----                             | 25% |
| Exam 2-----                             | 25% |
| Final Exam-----                         | 25% |
| Class Attendance and Participation..... | 5%  |

**Grade Determination:**

A letter grade will be assigned at the end of the semester based on points accumulated in class. No extra credit will be given. The grading schedule is subject to change during the semester, but will not become more difficult.

A tentative grading schedule is as follows:

|    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| A  | 93-100%          |
| A- | 90-92.99%        |
| B+ | 87-89.99%        |
| B  | 83-86.99%        |
| B- | 80-82.99%        |
| C+ | 77-79.99%        |
| C  | 73-76.99%        |
| C- | 70-72.99%        |
| D+ | 67-69.99%        |
| D  | 60-66.99%        |
| F  | less than 59.99% |

**Academic Honesty:**

As an institution of higher education, Washington State University is committed to principles of truth and academic honesty. All members of the University community share the responsibility for maintaining and supporting these principles. When a student enrolls in Washington State University, the student assumes an obligation to

pursue academic endeavors in a manner consistent with the standards of academic integrity adopted by the University. To maintain the academic integrity of the community, the University cannot tolerate acts of academic dishonesty including any forms of cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication. Washington State University reserves the right and the power to discipline or to exclude students who engage in academic dishonesty.

Any student found cheating will at a minimum receive an F on the assignment or exam, and be reported to the Office of Student Standards and Accountability. Cheating is defined in the Standards for Student Conduct WAC. For more information please see <http://conduct.wsu.edu/academic-integrity-policies-and-resources>.

### Safety:

Washington State University is committed to maintaining a safe environment for its faculty, staff, and students. Safety is the responsibility of every member of the campus community and individuals should know the appropriate actions to take when an emergency arises. In support of our commitment to the safety of the campus community the University has developed a Campus Safety Plan, <http://safetyplan.wsu.edu>. It is highly recommended that you visit this web site as well as the University emergency management web site at <http://oem.wsu.edu/> to become familiar with the information provided.

### Course Outline

| Dates | Day       | Topic  | Readings            | Due dates     |
|-------|-----------|--|---------------------|---------------|
| 8/20  | Monday    | Introductions and expectations                 | -                   |               |
| 8/22  | Wednesday | Marginal analysis                              | KO Ch2 p11-27       |               |
| 8/24  | Friday    | Benefits and costs                             | KO Ch3 p31-43       |               |
| 8/27  | Monday    | Supply and Demand                              | KO Ch4 p54-64       |               |
| 8/29  | Wednesday | Market Failure                                 | KO Ch5 p65-70;76-83 |               |
| 8/31  | Friday    | Property Rights (Emergence of property rights) | AA                  |               |
| 9/3   | Monday    | Labor Day                                      | No class            |               |
| 9/5   | Wednesday | Option value and discounting                   | AA*                 |               |
| 9/7   | Friday    | Types of policies and objectives               | KO Ch8 p125-143     |               |
| 9/10  | Monday    | Implementation and govt. failure               | AA                  |               |
| 9/12  | Wednesday | Government Structure and                       | AA                  |               |
| 9/14  | Friday    | Environmental Policies<br>Presentations        | AA                  | Presentations |
| 9/17  | Monday    | Utility theory                                 | AA                  |               |
| 9/19  | Wednesday | Socio-economic factors                         | AA                  |               |
| 9/21  | Friday    | Presentations                                  | -                   | Presentations |
| 9/24  | Monday    | Religion and Resource Use                      | AA                  |               |
| 9/26  | Wednesday | Biofuels                                       | AA                  |               |

|       |           |                                |               |               |
|-------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 9/28  | Friday    | Exam 1 Review                  | Exam 1 Review |               |
| 10/1  | Monday    | Exam1                          | -             | Exam1         |
| 10/3  | Wednesday | Agriculture and food           | AA            |               |
| 10/5  | Friday    | Presentations                  | -             | Presentations |
| 10/8  | Monday    | International influence        | AA            |               |
| 10/10 | Wednesday | Water                          | AA            |               |
| 10/12 | Friday    | Water in the Middle East       | Essay         |               |
| 10/15 | Monday    | Fishery                        | AA            |               |
| 10/17 | Wednesday | North Atlantic Fishery         | AA            |               |
| 10/19 | Friday    | Presentations                  |               | Presentations |
| 10/22 | Monday    | Amazon rainforest/biodiversity | AA            |               |
| 10/24 | Wednesday | Nuclear power                  | AA            |               |
| 10/26 | Friday    | Presentations                  |               | Presentations |
| 10/29 | Monday    | Review                         | Review        |               |
| 10/31 | Wednesday | Exam 2                         | -             | Exam 2        |
| 11/2  | Friday    | Climate change                 | AA            |               |
| 11/5  | Monday    | Climate change                 | AA            |               |
| 11/7  | Wednesday | Climate change                 | AA            |               |
| 11/9  | Friday    | Presentations                  |               | Presentations |
| 11/12 | Monday    | Veterans Day                   | No Class      |               |
| 11/14 | Wednesday | Ozone                          | AA            |               |
| 11/16 | Friday    | Presentations                  |               | Presentations |
|       |           | Thanksgiving Break 11/19-23    |               |               |
| 11/26 | Monday    | Crude Oil                      |               |               |
| 11/28 | Wednesday | Tar sands                      | AA            |               |
| 11/30 | Friday    | Presentations                  |               | Presentations |
| 12/3  | Monday    | Acid rain in North America     | AA            |               |
| 12/5  | Wednesday | Global Resources/Issues        | -             |               |
| 12/7  | Friday    | Review                         | Final review  | Essays Due    |

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is subject to change to facilitate instructional and/or student needs.

\*Assigned Articles.