

Economics of Sustainability ECO 4934, Section 1G98, Spring 2017

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Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:45am-1:40pm at Matherly Hall 16  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30am-3:30pm or by appointment

*Course Description*

The course will examine issues in sustainability from an economics perspective with a focus on climate change. A detailed list of topics that will be covered in class is listed in the course calendar.

*Prerequisites*

None

*Textbooks*

1. "The Climate Casino: Risk, Uncertainty, and Economics for a Warming World" by William Nordhaus. ISBN: 978-0300212648
2. Reading material handed out in class (Canvas)

*Grading*

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following:

Exam 1	35%
Exam 2	35%
Participation	10%
Research Paper	20%

The following scale will be used to determine your final grade:

A	93.00 and above
A-	92.99 to 90.00
B+	89.99 to 86.67
B	86.66 to 83.00
B-	82.99 to 80.00
C+	79.99 to 75.00
C	74.99 to 70.00
D	69.99 to 64.00
E	63.99 and below

*Exams*

The exams will rely on a variety of question formats and be closed book/closed note. The use of cell phones, PDAs or any other programmable device during any graded event is not allowed and violating this policy may result in failing that graded event and/or the class. Please note that make-ups are not guaranteed and will only be given for verifiable reasons (medical emergencies, academic conflicts, and religious conflicts).

### *Research Paper*

Each student will complete a 12-15 page paper and conduct a 5-10 minute presentation on a sustainability issue of his or her choice. The issue must be approved by the instructor. A detailed outline (two page proposal) will be due at the date specified in the calendar. The full paper and presentation deadlines are listed as well. Details about the format and citations will be made available on the course website. You should be ready to present for all dates.

### *Office Hours*

This is a great time to ask the questions you were unable to ask in class. If the office hours listed above are not convenient due to class or work conflicts, I will work with you to find a better solution. The easiest way to schedule office hours by appointment is to email me.

### *Contacting Me*

The best way to contact me is via e-mail. If you haven't received a response within 72 hours, please assume I didn't receive your email and re-send it.

### *Attendance / Participation*

Although attendance is not strictly required, your course grade is based on participation. We will be discussing some of the assigned readings and current topics in class and conducting in class activities throughout the semester.

### *Course Website*

We will be using Canvas. The address is: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu>. You log-in using your Gatorlink ID and password and the course should automatically appear as one of your e-learning options. If it does not, check to make sure you are properly registered for the course. If that is not the issue, contact the UF Computing Helpdesk at: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>. Do not contact me about access issues. I cannot help you and the help you do need will only be delayed if you do. If you need an extra copy of any materials made available during class, this is the place to check. Your grades will be made available via this website.

*Academic Honesty* You are expected to abide by the University's rules for academic honesty. These are available for your review at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr>. Cheating, plagiarism and any other action that violates these rules will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. It should be noted that creating an excuse to take a make-up exam that cannot be verified constitutes cheating under the University guidelines.

### *Students with Special Needs*

If you are a student with special needs and you require additional resources to participate in this course, please contact me immediately. The Dean of Students makes special accommodations for students as needed. After approval by the Dean of Students, the appropriate paperwork will be forwarded to me and accommodations can be made.

Calendar

Date	Activity
W Jan 4	Introduction Read: Ch 1, Ch 2, and Ch 3 of “Climate Casino”
M Jan 9	Economic Origins of Climate Change Cost Benefit Analysis part 1 Read: Reports on cost benefit analysis relating to environmental topics
W Jan 11	Future Climate Change Tipping Points in the Climate Casino Read: Ch 4 and Ch 5 of “Climate Casino”
W Jan 18	Environmental Policy History part 1 and Cap and Trade Read: “The SO2 Allowance Trading System: The Ironic History of a Grand Policy Experiment” (Richard Schmalensee and Robert N. Stavins)
M Jan 23	From Climate Change to Impacts The Fate of Farming Read: Ch 6 and Ch 7 of “Climate Casino”
W Jan 25	The Impact on Human Health Pollution, Health, and the Economy Read: Ch 8 of “Climate Casino” and Davis, Mary. 2012. Recessions and Health: The Impact of Economic Trends on Air Pollution in California. American J of Public Health.
M Jan 30	Perils for the Oceans Intensification of Hurricanes Wildlife and Species Loss Read: Ch 9, Ch 10, Ch 11 of “Climate Casino”
W Feb 1	Law and Economics relating to sustainability Tragedy of the Commons Read: Excerpts from “Tragedy of the Commons”
M Feb 6	Adding up the damages from climate change Dealing with climate change: adaptation and geoengineering Slowing climate change by reducing emissions: Mitigation Ch 12, Ch 13, Ch 14 of “Climate Casino”
W Feb 8	Financing sustainable projects in developing countries. Climate change and global agreements on GHG emissions. Read: World Bank and United Nations reports
M Feb 13	Political economy of GHG regulation and Coal/Clean Air Act. “The political economy of congressional support for legislation intended to mitigate GHG production” (Cragg et al)
W Feb 15	Exam 1 review, <i>Research proposal due</i>
M Feb 20	<i>Exam 1</i>
	Continued on next page.

W Feb 22	<p>Energy Efficiency.</p> <p>Read: Allcott, Hunt and Michael Greenstone. Is there an energy efficiency gap? Journal of Economics Perspectives. 2012.</p> <p>Portney, Paul, Ian Parry, Howard Gruenspecht, and Winston Harrington. Journal of Economics Perspectives. 2003. The Economics of Fuel Economy Standards</p> <p>McConnell, Virginia. The New CAFE standards: are they enough on their own? Resources for the Future.</p>
M Feb 27	<p>The Costs of Slowing Climate Change</p> <p>Discounting and the Value of Time</p> <p>Ch 15 and Ch 16 of “Climate Casino”</p>
W Mar 1	<p>Transportation and how to reduce petroleum consumption</p> <p>Read: Reducing Petroleum Consumption from Transportation. Christopher R. Knittel. The Journal of Economic Perspectives</p>
M Mar 13	<p>Environmental Policy History part 2: Historical Perspectives on Climate Policy</p> <p>Cost Benefit Analysis part 2</p> <p>The Central Role of Carbon Prices</p> <p>Read: Ch 17, Ch 18, and Ch 19 of “Climate Casino”</p>
W Mar 15	<p>Climate Change Policies at the National Level</p> <p>From National to Harmonized International Policies</p> <p>Second Best and Beyond</p> <p>Read: Ch 20, Ch 21, and Ch 22</p>
M Mar 20	<p>Economics of Nuclear power.</p> <p>New Technologies for a low-carbon economy</p> <p>Ch 23 of “Climate Casino”</p>
W Mar 22	<p><b>Research paper due</b></p> <p>Climate Science and its critics</p> <p>Public Opinion on Climate Change</p> <p>Ch 24 and Ch 25 of “Climate Casino”</p>
M Mar 27	<p>Obstacles to Climate Change Policies</p> <p>Climate change and global agreements on GHG emissions.</p> <p>Read: World Bank and United Nations reports, Ch 26 of “Climate Casino”</p>
W Mar 29	<p>Exam 2 Review, <i>Presentations (5 people present)</i></p>
W Apr 5	<p><b>Exam 2</b></p>
M Apr 10	<p><i>Presentations (9 people present)</i></p>
W Apr 12	<p><i>Presentations (9 people present)</i></p>
M Apr 17	<p><i>Presentations (9 people present)</i></p>
W Apr 19	<p><i>Presentations (9 people present)</i></p>