



COURSE: Ecological Economics

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2016/2017

TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY: Characterizing

TEACHER: Giovanni Quaranta

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Language: English

ECTS: 8 (lessons e tutorials/practice)	n. of hours: 56 (lessons e tutorials/practice)	Campus: Potenza Dept./School: DIMIE Program: Natural and Cultural Resources Economics	Semester: II
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EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Ecological Economics course reviews key analytical tools and methods of coupled human-natural systems to investigate current managements or policy decisions, adopting an interdisciplinary approach.

Conventional economics assumes that the economy can continue to grow incessantly, welfare is determined only by market goods, and people always act egoistically. Ecological economics in contrast, starts from the understanding that the economy is a sub-system of the global environment, and subject to its biophysical limits. In addition, human welfare is determined by many other factors besides market goods: rights, freedom, relationship, peacetime, status, etc. In addition, human behavior is far more complex than simple self-interest. Ecological economics recognizes that the interactions between the human system and the global ecosystem cannot be understood from within the framework of any single discipline. Therefore, ecological economics is an interdisciplinary encompassing ecological, social, and economic perspective.

Students will develop a clear understanding of the principles and applications of ecological economics. They will be able to critically evaluate the underlying concepts and unspoken values implicit in neoclassical economic theory. Students will also be able to identify appropriate tools from ecological economics to address environmental issues and achieve viable, sustainable economies.

Attendance: students are allowed very few one unexcused absence. Further absences will negatively affect grade. There will be 28 classes so attending each class meeting is crucial.

Participation: Showing up is not enough, students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and contribute to group discussions.

PRE-REQUIREMENTS

Fundamentals of economic theory

SYLLABUS

This course outlines the holistic perspective, incorporating knowledge of ecology into traditional economic theory. The course starts with an historical development of economics as a discipline, as well as exploring the differences between ecological and environmental economics. While most economics courses take a strictly positive, value-neutral approach, it will be investigating the normative components of economic theories and policies in relation to the Earth's ecosystems.



Topics of the lectures:

The Historical Development of Economics and Ecology

Economics and Ecology Specialize and Separate

Reintegration of Ecology and Economics

The Global Ecosystem and the Economic Subsystem

Population and Poverty

The Fragmentation of Economics and the Natural Sciences

Principles and Objectives of Ecological Economics

Ecosystems, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Services

Substitutability versus Complementarity of Natural, Human, Social, and Built Capital

Population and Carrying Capacity

Measuring Welfare and Well-Being

Institutions, Instruments, and Policies

History of Environmental Institutions and Instruments

Policy Instruments and Governance

TEACHING METHODS

Theoretical lessons, Case studies analysis lessons and students presentations, keynote conferences by national and international academics.

EVALUATION METHODS

Grading: Attendance/Participation: 15% - Reading Responses: 20% - Midterm: 20% - Presentation: 20% - Final oral exam: 25%

TEXTBOOKS AND ON-LINE EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

- An introduction to Ecological Economics, R Costanza, J H Cumberland, H Daly, R Goodland, R B Norgaard, I Kubiszewski, C Franco, Second edition, 2 – Dec 2014. CRC Press.
- Other texts and notes provided by the Instructor

INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS

Meeting day and time with the students are planned as follow: March 1 – June 15, 2017, - on each day of lecturing after the end of the lectures; June 16, 2017 – February 28, 2018, on each Tuesday and Wednesday from 12:00 to 14:00. It is possible to contact and interact with the Instructor by email when the student needs.

EXAMINATION SESSIONS (FORECAST)¹

¹ Subject to possible changes: check the web site of the Teacher or the Department/School for updates.



Università degli Studi della Basilicata
DIPARTIMENTO DI MATEMATICA, INFORMATICA ED ECONOMIA

Thursday May 19, 2017; Thursday July 7, 2017; Thursday July 28, 2017; Thursday September 8, 2017; Thursday November 17, 2017; Thursday February 9, 2018

SEMINARS BY EXTERNAL EXPERTS **YES X** NO

FURTHER INFORMATION
