

Connecting Undergraduate Level Economics Courses to *GREENR*

Relevant Courses



Economics of Waste

- Students are introduced to the concepts of handling, disposal, and regulation as they relate to waste management. Courses cover topics such as interstate and international waste trade, recycling, and disposal of hazardous and household waste. The goal of courses in waste is to examine how federal, state, and local governments have undertaken the regulation of waste and what the effects of regulation have been on economic efficiency, health and the environment.



Environmental and Resource Economics

- For students who have are looking to apply their economic knowledge to real world problems environmental and resource economic courses are the perfect place. These courses look at issues such as nonrenewable resource extraction, property rights, environmental policy through the lens of an economist, applying theory and analysis to better understand and resolve these issues.



Economics of Development

- Why are some countries developed and others not? One of the main reasons is access to resources. Courses in Development economics deal heavily in issues that are directly connected to the environment and natural resources. They discuss topics such as malnutrition, poverty, migration of labor, and the relationship between these issues and conflict.



Experimental Economics

- What is the best way to incentive people to recycle? How do we get multinational corporations to invest in green technology? These are the types of questions experimental economics attempts to answer. Courses are a combination of game theory, market analysis, and behavioral economics. Students learn how to design and test economic and environmental policy using simulations and lab research.

Major Topics

Regulation

- In almost every economics course there is a unit on regulation. When government enters into the free market economists not only debate the merits of the policy but also the positive and negative externalities associated with it.

Taxing Pollution

- Economics is a science that believes incentives are the answer to some of the biggest environmental challenges. In economics course students debate plans to tax pollution on the personal and corporate levels.

Property Rights

- Property rights are not always as cut and dry as they may seem, especially on environmental issues. For example, who owns water, fish, or the air? Economists are teaching their students to work on more clearly defining property rights.

Three of the most common student assignments

✓ POLICY ANALYSIS PAPER

- Students choose a specific environmental issue, of their choice, to write a brief analysis. The basis of the paper should come from a recent article in a major newspaper/magazine, such as the *New York Times* or the *Wall Street Journal* that discusses an environmental issue. The student paper should then elaborate on the following four points: (i) what is the issue, (ii) why is it important, (iii) how economic tools can be applied to analyze the issue, including references to the existing academic literature that discusses this subject, and (iv) what lessons can we learn from the economics analysis (i.e. what are the policy recommendations or what are the new insights for the business world etc.). Papers are expected to be comprehensive and analytical; they should provide a thorough discussion of the economic causes and impacts of the environmental problem under consideration.

✓ PRESENTATION OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH

- Students are required to make a presentation to the class of an existing academic paper. Presentations are expected to last between 30-40 minutes. Presentations can be made orally or may incorporate a PowerPoint or handout. As a part of the presentation, students are required to prepare a report (roughly 3 pages) on the paper that they are discussing. The report should summarize and critically review the paper. The critical review is the most important part of the report and should account for roughly two thirds of the total length. Where appropriate, discuss the appropriateness/insightfulness of the model and/or the credibility of the empirical approach. If the paper does not have a model, students may want to discuss what a good model would look like. If the paper is theoretical, students should discuss what a meaningful test of the model would look like.

✓ PROBLEM SETS, QUIZZES, EXAMS

- Students enrolled in economics courses can expect to complete a variety of assessments throughout the semester. There are problem sets that cover concepts from readings and course lectures. Quizzes test larger course concepts that are essential to understanding core concepts of the economics discipline. Exams are the capstone assessment for the course in which students are asked to apply basic economic reasoning and analysis relevant scenarios.



How a student would use GREENR to complete these assignments

Features:

Economics courses are some of the most challenging an undergraduate can take. When economics and environmental issues cross, using *GREENR* can make it easier for students to put them into perspective. First, *GREENR* explains complex environmental issues in everyday language, which allows students to focus more on the economics and less on comprehending the scenario. *GREENR* also provides students with assessments of issues from multiple perspectives so that students get the most accurate picture of how people across the globe understand an issue. Finally, *GREENR* puts the most up to date research in student's hands so students can understand both the scientific and economic aspects of an issue.

Case Studies [VIEW ALL 6 >>](#)

Case Studies on the Local Agenda 21 Process: The Provincial Municipality of Cajamarca Peru
Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Online Collection, 2009.

Case Studies in Economic Development, 3rd edition
Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Online Collection, 2009.

Economic Development Case Studies
Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Online Collection, 2009.

GREENR
Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources

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Environmental Economics

OVERVIEW:

Environmental economics applies the theories and methods of economics to problems in environmental policy and management. Viewed from one perspective, economics may be understood as a descriptive science that aims to model and predict the behavior of economic systems (Robbins 1932) More broadly, however, environmental economics builds on the normative principles of welfare economics, an approach developed by Pigou (1920), Samuelson (1954), and others in the early to mid-twentieth century. Environmental economists seek both to predict the effects of policy decisions and to design optimal policies that reflect individual and social values. In this sense, environmental economics is closely linked to the field of applied ethics.

Modern economic theory emphasizes a behavioral model in which human beings are assumed to be well-informed and rational. The rationality assumption is grounded in the nineteenth-century utilitarianism of Jeremy Bentham (1789) and John Stuart Mill (1863). The Idea is that people derive utility from the ... [VIEW FULL OVERVIEW](#)

Academic Journals [VIEW ALL 111 >>](#)

- [Reconsidering Heterogeneity and Aggregation Issues in Environmental Valuation: A Multi-attribute Approach.\(Report\)](#)
Jesus Barreiro-Hurle and Jose A. Gomez-Limon.
Environmental and Resource Economics, August 2008.
- [Bush v. Gore and the Effect of New Source Review on Power Plant Emissions.\(Report\)](#)
Ian Lange and Joshua Linn. *Environmental and Resource Economics*, August 2008.

TOOLS

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Case Studies

Community-based Incentives for Nature Conservation
Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Online Collection, 2009.

Science and problem solving in a political world: insights from Katrina.(Case study)
International Journal of Ecological Economics & Statistics, Summer 2008.

Websites and Blogs [VIEW ALL 7 >>](#)

A Classic, Ever New: A Sand County Almanac

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Book Reviews [VIEW ALL 9 >>](#)

Price, Principle, and the Environment.
Environment, Jan-Feb 2006.

BLUEPRINT FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY.
Environment, Oct 2001.

Economic Values and the Natural World.
Environment, Oct 1994.

RELATED PORTALS

- Common Pool Resources**
- Discounting**
- Economic Development**
- Externalities**
- Market Mechanisms**
- Natural Capital**
- Non-Market Valuation**
- Risk**
- Trade and Environment**

Presentations

Environmental Economics 2006: First International Conference on Environmental Economics and Investment Assessment
Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Online Collection, 2009.

Green Economy Conference
Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Online Collection, 2009.

Presenting an academic paper

For undergraduate students one of the biggest challenges they face is being unfamiliar with the research process and the revision process academic papers must undergo. To help undergraduate students work around this *GREENR* not only has scholarly articles on topics found in the environmental economics course but also easy to understand reference and periodical content. Students can use these more common texts to fully understand the issue and find illuminating examples of how these issues affect communities around the globe.

Preparing students for exams

In many economics courses, students are graded on “a curve,” meaning that students are competing against one another for a set number of top grades. Economics students want every advantage that they can get and *GREENR* can give it to them. Most exams require a student to show what they know by answering a series of short and long answer essay questions where students apply knowledge from the course to scenarios selected by the instructor. Students can use the case studies found in *GREENR* to anticipate exam questions and find professional responses.

Resources for the policy/position paper

When students have assignments that require them to take a position on an issue finding the latest research is essential to formulating a strong position. *GREENR* gives students a look at not only the latest scholarship but suggests relevant conference presentations, reports/overviews and libraries that specialize in controversial research topics. These resources are the perfect complement to *GREENR*’s in-depth reference content. *GREENR* also provides students with links to outside pages where they can continue their research, such as websites and blogs from respected environmental organizations and associations.

Organized portals to help students draw conclusions on problem sets

When an instructor assigns a problem set, they want to make sure their student’s understand key concepts and curriculum presented in the previous session. When textbooks do not make sense, students can use the concept portal pages to get a plain English overview of the topic. *GREENR* is the ideal resource for economics students because it contains portal pages on environmental economics, discounting, cost-benefit analysis, green economy, ecological economics, market mechanisms and more.

Understanding the environmental economics of emerging nations

An emerging nation is a case study in progress. Economics students can take advantage of *GREENR*’s coverage of emerging nations. *GREENR* provides premier coverage of developing nations from respected reference sources and news outlets. Students will get analysis of the precise factors that in education, government, and healthcare that play a crucial role in how a state cares for its natural resources and protects its environment.

Reference Content for Economics Students

- *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society*
- *Energy for the 21st Century*
- *Sustainable Enterprise*
- *Global Logistics and Distribution Planning*
- *China's Environment and the Challenge of Sustainable Development*