Syllabus for SMGT 235 Economics in Society and Sustainability

NOTE: This syllabus document contains the basic information about this course. The most current syllabus is available in the course.

Course Description

This is a general introductory course highlighting economic, social, and environmental issues facing society. In addition to covering traditional issues such as markets and prices (microeconomics), government economic management (macroeconomics), and international trade, it also introduces economic content into the analysis of selected topics such as poverty and discrimination, the environment, and the provision of government services. Critiques of conventional economic thought, within the context of systems thinking and ecological economics, are integrated throughout the course.

Prerequisite(s)

College Math

Course Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Differentiate between conventional and ecological economics; identify the analytical tools and concepts to apply in the analysis of contemporary sustainability questions and issues and illustrate why they are the relevant tools of choice.
- Outline the characteristics and illustrate the importance of systems thinking; examine contemporary economic, social, and environmental issues within this analytical context.
- Apply ecological economic tools and concepts in a problem-solving process that includes these steps:
    - Building the problem base: choosing, defining, and structuring the problem
    - Analysis: breaking down the problem and evaluating the objectives
    - Synthesis: bringing it all together
    - Communication: final communication, peer review, and identification of next steps

- Outline the basic characteristics of microeconomics, market analysis, and market failure and its implications; apply this understanding in terms of market policy implications and options.
- Outline the basic characteristics of macroeconomics, international trade, and policy design principles; apply the concepts of sustainable scale, just distribution, and efficient allocation within the context of environmental and economic policies.

Course Requirements/Components

In addition to chapter quizzes, which are not graded, there will be 5 graded quizzes.

There will be 5 writing assignments. The assignments will model, to some extent, the types of essay questions that you will experience in the three exams. They will tend to focus on the material in and questions raised by the Daly and Farley text. They will also take advantage, when possible, of short media treatments of contemporary issues that get at the fundamental issues surrounding economics and sustainability.

There will be 3 discussion assignments, each with a similar format.

There will be 3 examinations in the course.

Students are also responsible for a substantive issue paper that demonstrates their ability to analyze a question or issue of interest within the broad topical area of economics and sustainability. In this paper, students are expected to clearly explain the implications of what they have found and learned.

Finally, the course includes a group assignment, consisting of several parts. Students will work with a small group of peers and develop a lesson for the course that explores a relevant topic of interest to you, your group, and the class as a whole.

Grading

5 Quizzes (3% each, top 4 of 5 scores)	12%
5 Writing Assignments	21%
3 Discussion Assignments (4% each)	12%
3 Exams (11% each)	33%
Issue Paper Assignment	14%
Group Presentation Assignment	8%
	100%

The corresponding letter grades are as follows:

92.5 to 100.0 = A	90.0 to 92.49 = A-	
87.5 to 89.9 = B+	82.5 to 87.49 = B	80.0 to 82.49 = B-
77.5 to 79.9 = C+	72.5 to 77.49 = C	70.0 to 72.49 = C-
67.5 to 69.9 = D+	62.5 to 67.49 = D	60.0 to 62.49 = D-
Below 60.0 = F		

Your final grade for the course will be a weighted average in accordance with the course breakdown shown above.