

Syllabus for SMGT 235 Economics in Society and Sustainability

Course Description

Prerequisite: College Algebra

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.

Course Learning Objectives

Learning objectives specific to each of the topic areas covered are provided at the beginning of each *lesson* in the course. More generally, upon successfully 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 Materials

Information on course materials can be found in the [textbook section](#) of the SMGT website.

Course Requirements

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

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

There will be three examinations in the course.

Students are also responsible for a substantive issue paper of ten (10) or more pages 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 Policy

4 Quizzes (3% each, top 4 of 5 scores)	12%
5 Writing Assignments (4% each)	20%
3 Discussion Assignments (4% each)	12%
3 Exams (12% each)	36%
Issue Paper Assignment	12%
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.