

**FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN CHANGE
YORK UNIVERSITY**

**ENVS 6115 3.0 Ecological Economics
Fall 2021**

Course Instructor and Contact Information

Eric Miller : ewmiller@yorku.ca

Course Time and Location

Mondays from 9 AM – 11:50 AM online

Official Course Description

This course introduces economic concepts and approaches that help to understand and resolve environmental issues, with the broad goals of sustainability, efficiency, and just distribution. No background in economics is required or assumed, nor will it be a problem if you have already taken a course or a degree in economics.

Expanded Course Description

This course aims to enhance your ecological economic literacy by developing your skills in: 1) appraising scholarly publications that focus on environment-economy interactions and dependencies; 2) applying economic theory to analyze contemporary environmental problems and strategize for solutions; 3) succinctly communicating theory and solutions to an interdisciplinary audience, in writing and verbally.

This course will examine the topics of: markets and market failure, the economic consideration of ecosystem services, non-market valuation of externalities, directing markets to internalize externalities, informing decisions in the public interest, discounting, human behaviour, the assessment of sustainability with nature considered as natural capital, wellbeing, global trade, and unemployment.

Ecological economics was formalized in the late 1980s with an International Society for Ecological Economics and its scholarly journal called Ecological Economics. Today, this field is broadly recognized around the world as a problem-oriented interdisciplinary approach to doing economics in a way that often challenges mainstream economics. Ecological economics emerged from environmental economics and natural resource economics; each offers complementary and sometimes competing approaches to understand and resolve issues about interactions and dependencies between “the environment” and “the economy”.

Anticipated Course Readings or Texts

After the first introductory session, each session requires reading two or three assigned journal articles from academic periodicals, which are all hyperlinked on the course website through York’s library proxy. All articles are identified on the full course outline, which is supplied to students in the first session.

A restricted-access course website hosts lecture videos and screen captures for each of the topics, links to all required readings through the library proxy, guidelines used to grade the assignments, a class list with emails, and the ability to post comments and replies.

Evaluation: Grading and Course Requirements

Grades on four assignments will sum to an overall grade out of 100: a literature appraisal (20%), an issue seminar (30%), a policy brief (40%), and participation in class discussions and using the course blog (10%). No background in economics is required or assumed, nor will it be a problem if you have already taken a course or a degree in economics.

Important Course information

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the [Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage](#)

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Intellectual Property Notice

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