



ECON917

Ecological Economics

S2 Day 2019

Dept of Economics

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	6
<u>Learning and Teaching Activities</u>	6
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	7
<u>Graduate Capabilities</u>	8

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Rohan Best

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4ER Room 451

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

ECON632

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides an introduction to ecological economics - a trans-disciplinary approach to the application of economics to issues of environmental management, development and human welfare, stressing the complex nature of the ecosystem within which economic activity is embedded and the crucial constraints imposed on the scale of human economic activity. Topics covered include sustainability and sustainable development, limits to economic growth, the definition and measurement of welfare and economic progress, and the development of policy for a closed and rapidly-filling world. The course will be applied in focus, with significant use of case studies and an individual applied research component.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Demonstrate competence in the use of advanced terminology and concepts associated with the analyses of environmental issues from an ecological economics perspective.

Determine the relevant ecological aspects of environmental problems including key stakeholders and important incentive effects, and the role of ecological constraints.

Show advanced understanding of the major theoretical approaches to the ecological analysis of environmental issues, the assumptions on which they are based and their

implications regarding the effects of changes in key parameters.

Exhibit the capacity to assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Content quizzes</u>	20%	No	Week 2-13
<u>Written reflections</u>	20%	No	Week 7 & First day of Macquarie University's Exam Period
<u>Research Assignment summary</u>	20%	No	Week 10
<u>Research Assignment</u>	40%	No	Week 13

Content quizzes

Due: **Week 2-13**

Weighting: **20%**

This task involves multiple choice quizzes on course content and readings. There will be weekly online quizzes (10 questions) held at the beginning of class from week 2-13. The best 8 of 12 results will count.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Show advanced understanding of the major theoretical approaches to the ecological analysis of environmental issues, the assumptions on which they are based and their implications regarding the effects of changes in key parameters.
- Exhibit the capacity to assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

Written reflections

Due: **Week 7 & First day of Macquarie University's Exam Period**

Weighting: **20%**

This task involves two reflective blog entries on course content worth 10% each. Students are to

identify what the key points for them are from particular sections of the course and explain why in 500 words (for each blog entry). The first blog entry is due in Week 7 and is based on Section 1 and 2 of the course. The second blog entry is due on the first day of Macquarie University's Exam Period and is based on Section 3 and 4 of the course.

Blogs/essays must be submitted via Turnitin (see the website for this course). Late essays will be accepted up to 72 hours after the submission deadline. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks for each 24 hour period, or part thereof, that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission means a 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Determine the relevant ecological aspects of environmental problems including key stakeholders and important incentive effects, and the role of ecological constraints.
- Exhibit the capacity to assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

Research Assignment summary

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **20%**

This task involves submitting a written abstract of 200 words for the major Research Assignment, along with a verbal presentation. Each student will review the abstract of two others. More details will be provided during lectures and on iLearn.

Abstracts must be submitted via Turnitin (see the website for this course). Late abstracts will be accepted up to 72 hours after the submission deadline. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks for each 24 hour period, or part thereof, that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission means a 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in the use of advanced terminology and concepts associated with the analyses of environmental issues from an ecological economics perspective.
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Research Assignment

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

Students are to select an observable problem of interest to them and propose solutions based on what is covered in the unit. The essay should be 3000 words.

Essays must be submitted via Turnitin (see the website for this course). Late essays will be accepted up to 72 hours after the submission deadline. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks for each 24 hour period, or part thereof, that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission means a 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in the use of advanced terminology and concepts associated with the analyses of environmental issues from an ecological economics perspective.
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Delivery and Resources

Classes

Students are advised to check <https://timetables.mq.edu.au> for times and venues. This unit provides 3 hours face-to-face teaching per week consisting of lecture and tutorial components. It is recommended that students attend all lectures.

Recommended Texts

There is no required textbook. Some recommended references include:

Daly, H.E. and Farley, J. (2010). *Ecological Economics: Principles and Applications*, Second Edition.

Spash, C.L. (2017). *Routledge Handbook of Ecological Economics*.

Thampapillai, D.J. and Ruth, M. (2019). *Environmental Economics: Concepts, Methods and Policies*.

Technology Used and Required Unit Web Page

Lecture and tutorial material as well as up to date information concerning any aspect of the unit,

including any changes to the schedule, will be available to students by logging on to the unit web page at <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>. You are strongly encouraged to regularly visit the website and use it as a resource centre to assist with your learning.

Unit Schedule

There are four sections:

Section 1 (week 1-3): Introduction, key principles

- Introduction and definition of ecological economics
- Key ecological and economic principles
- Renewable and non-renewable resources

Section 2 (week 4-6): Microeconomics

- Markets
- Externalities
- Market failure

Section 3 (week 7-9): Macroeconomics

- Money
- Globalisation
- Measures of economic output and welfare
- Sustainable development and limits to growth

Section 4 (week 10-13): Policy

- General overview
- Carbon pricing
- Distribution and equity

Assessment schedule: Week 10: presentation of project summaries. Please see Assessment Task section above for further details.

Learning and Teaching Activities

Lectures

Lectures are intended to provide overviews of the conceptual framework and economic data that are critical to the core themes of the unit.

Independent learning

Learning by doing (about 6 hours each teaching week and 9 hours each week during the 2-week mid-semester recess). ECON917 relies heavily on independent learning where students read textbook chapters, journal articles, and the lecture notes. ECON917 also involves students

preparing answers to weekly practice questions.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate competence in the use of advanced terminology and concepts associated with the analyses of environmental issues from an ecological economics perspective.
- Determine the relevant ecological aspects of environmental problems including key stakeholders and important incentive effects, and the role of ecological constraints.
- Show advanced understanding of the major theoretical approaches to the ecological analysis of environmental issues, the assumptions on which they are based and their implications regarding the effects of changes in key parameters.
- Exhibit the capacity to assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

Assessment tasks

- Content quizzes
- Written reflections
- Research Assignment summary
- Research Assignment

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate competence in the use of advanced terminology and concepts associated with the analyses of environmental issues from an ecological economics perspective.
- Determine the relevant ecological aspects of environmental problems including key stakeholders and important incentive effects, and the role of ecological constraints.
- Show advanced understanding of the major theoretical approaches to the ecological analysis of environmental issues, the assumptions on which they are based and their implications regarding the effects of changes in key parameters.
- Exhibit the capacity to assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

Assessment tasks

- Content quizzes
- Written reflections
- Research Assignment summary
- Research Assignment

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate competence in the use of advanced terminology and concepts associated with the analyses of environmental issues from an ecological economics perspective.
- Exhibit the capacity to assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

Assessment tasks

- Written reflections
- Research Assignment summary
- Research Assignment