



ECON3059

Environmental Economics

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Department of Economics

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Wylie Bradford

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above including (ECON110 or ECON111 or ECON1020) and 20cp at 2000 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The application of economic principles to the management of environmental assets throws up fundamental practical and conceptual challenges. An understanding of the nature and causes of environmental problems, and ways to achieve efficient and sustainable use of environmental resources, is vital for the future welfare of the human race. This unit examines the theoretical foundation of optimal exploitation of assets such as energy, minerals, water, forests and fisheries, and the management of water, air and soil pollution. The implications of economic theory are contrasted and combined with contributions from ecological economics where appropriate, and the role of institutional function is emphasised throughout. Case studies are drawn from Australian and international experience.

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:

ULO1: Identify and describe concepts associated with the economic analysis of environmental issues.

ULO2: Analyse the relevant economic aspects of environmental problems and policy

responses, including key stakeholders and important incentive effects and their determinants.

ULO3: Critically evaluate different theoretical approaches in the assessment and comparison of policy alternatives with respect to environmental issues.

General Assessment Information

Detailed information on assessment tasks, including specific submission and assessment dates, will be supplied via iLearn.

All assessments will involve online submission/completion only.

As the timing of contributions to assessment tasks in ECON3059 is completely within the control of the student, the following conditions apply to all assessment tasks:

No extensions will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to a deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except in cases in which an application for Special Consideration is approved and a determination made that *serious and unavoidable disruption* has occurred.

Note that for the personal case study there are no 'due dates' per se. The content on the individual wikis will be assessed at particular, stated times.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Personal case study	40%	No	Weeks 4,8,13
Individual blog	30%	No	Weeks 3,5,7,9,13
Class discussion	20%	No	Weeks 8,12
Quiz	10%	No	Weekly

Personal case study

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **Weeks 4,8,13**

Weighting: **40%**

Students choose a real-world environmental case study to work on over the session. The case study is written up in the form of a wiki, and scaffolded feedback is provided at two points during the session with final grading based on the content at the end of week 13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and describe concepts associated with the economic analysis of environmental issues.
- Analyse the relevant economic aspects of environmental problems and policy responses, including key stakeholders and important incentive effects and their determinants.
- Critically evaluate different theoretical approaches in the assessment and comparison of policy alternatives with respect to environmental issues.

Individual blog

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Weeks 3,5,7,9,13**

Weighting: **30%**

Weekly sessions will involve small-group discussion and responses to the provided online material. The group outputs will be synthesised and discussed by the group as a whole. Individuals will keep a record of their own reflections on the sessions in a personal blog on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and describe concepts associated with the economic analysis of environmental issues.
- Analyse the relevant economic aspects of environmental problems and policy responses, including key stakeholders and important incentive effects and their determinants.
- Critically evaluate different theoretical approaches in the assessment and comparison of policy alternatives with respect to environmental issues.

Class discussion

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 13 hours

Due: **Weeks 8,12**

Weighting: **20%**

Twice during the session a discussion forum will be opened and starting topics provided. Students will be expected to contribute to the discussions and interact with peers in sharing perspectives and information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse the relevant economic aspects of environmental problems and policy responses, including key stakeholders and important incentive effects and their determinants.
- Critically evaluate different theoretical approaches in the assessment and comparison of policy alternatives with respect to environmental issues.

Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 1 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Short content quizzes will be held during each lectorial session covering the content presumed to have been read/watched prior to participating in the session.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and describe concepts associated with the economic analysis of environmental issues.
- Analyse the relevant economic aspects of environmental problems and policy responses, including key stakeholders and important incentive effects and their determinants.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Classes

1 x 2 hour 'lectorial' per week. **In 2020, all lectorial sessions will be conducted online via Zoom.**

Required Texts and/or Materials

Perman, R., Ma, Y., McGilvray, J. & Common, M. (2011) *Natural Resource and Environmental Economics* (4th Ed, Addison Wesley).

The text combines a direct and intuitive approach to theoretical issues with an appropriate degree of rigour that is missing in many other texts in the field. Assigned reading from the text is required for participation in lectorials.

Technology requirements: **a device with online connectivity (phone, tablet, laptop) to participate in online assessment in class.**

UNIT WEB PAGE

Course material is available on the learning management system (iLearn) The web page for this unit can be found at: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The course will be delivered online in 'lectorial' sessions in 2020.

Students must interact with the assigned content material before each lectorial. Compliance will be monitored and marking of assessment tasks related to lectorial sessions is conditional upon adequate compliance.

Unit Schedule

Note: pre-read (i.e. prior to the course commencing) Chapters 4,14 of the text. This information will be treated as presumed knowledge.

Week	Topic (Text Chapter)
1	Introduction and overview (1)
2	<i>Resource economics I</i> - Non-renewable resources (15)
3	<i>Resource economics II</i> - Fishery economics (17)
4	<i>Resource economics III</i> - Forestry economics (18)
5	<i>Pollution control I</i> - Targets (5)
6	<i>Pollution control II</i> - Instruments (6)
7	<i>Pollution control III</i> - Policy with imperfect information (7)
	Session 2 recess
8	<i>Project appraisal I</i> - Cost-benefit analysis (11)
9	<i>Project appraisal II</i> - Environmental valuation (12)
10	<i>Project appraisal III</i> - Irreversibility, risk and uncertainty (13)
11	<i>Big picture I</i> - Sustainability and growth (2)
12	<i>Big picture III</i> - Climate change (9)

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.*)

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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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.

Changes from Previous Offering

In 2020 all lectorial sessions will be conducted online via Zoom.

Requirements for successful completion

In order to demonstrate attainment of the learning outcomes to an extent sufficient to warrant a passing grade in ECON3059 as per the Assessment Policy you must:

- score an aggregate mark in excess of 50;
- successfully complete (i.e. pass) **at least two assessment tasks, including either the personal case study or the individual blog.**

The rationale for these rules is that there is a minimum level of general performance required if a student is to be held to have achieved the Learning Outcomes, and the assessment tasks address different combinations of the Learning Outcomes. This means that doing extremely poorly in both of the assessment tasks that directly require reflection on the course material, and which involve higher-order reasoning of the content, is not consistent with demonstrating overall

attainment of the Learning Outcomes. Some degree of 'make up' via the less reflective tasks is permissible, but this must be limited to maintain the integrity of the grading process.