ECON7017

Ecological Economics

Session 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2022

Department of Economics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor / Lecturer
Rohan Best
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

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 unit 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:

ULO1: Demonstrate competence in the use of advanced terminology and concepts associated with the analyses of environmental issues from an ecological economics perspective.

ULO2: Evaluate ecological aspects of environmental problems, including key stakeholders and important incentive effects, and the role of ecological constraints.

ULO3: Critically analyse 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.

ULO4: Assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

General Assessment Information

Late submissions of assessments

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, no extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available assessment-task marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24-hour period or part thereof that the submission is late. Late submissions will only be accepted up to 96 hours after the due date and time.

No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g., quizzes, online tests.

Table 1: Penalty calculation based on submission time

Submission time after the due date (including weekends)	Penalty (% of available assessment task mark)	Example: for a non-timed assessment task marked out of 30
<24 hours	10%	10% x 30 marks = 3-mark deduction
24-48 hours	20%	20% x 30 marks = 6-mark deduction
48-72 hours	30%	30% x 30 marks = 9-mark deduction
72 – 96 hours	40%	40% x 30 marks = 12-mark deduction
>96 hours	100%	Assignment won't be accepted

Special Consideration

To request an extension on the due date/time for a timed or non-timed assessment task, you must submit a Special Consideration application. An application for Special Consideration does not guarantee approval.

The approved extension date for a student becomes the new due date for that student. The late submission penalties above then apply as of the new due date.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Content quizzes	20%	No	Weeks 2-13

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Written reflections	20%	No	Week 7 and 13
Research assignment summary	20%	No	Week 8
Research assignment	40%	No	June 15

Content quizzes

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **Weeks 2-13**
Weighting: **20%**

There will be weekly online quizzes from weeks 2-13. Each quiz involves 10 multiple choice questions on course content and readings.

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- Critically analyse 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.
- Assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

Written reflections

Assessment Type [1]: Reflective Writing
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **Week 7 and 13**
Weighting: **20%**

This task involves two reflective blog entries on course content. Students are to identify what the key points are from particular sections of the course, and explain why. Each 500 word blog is worth 10%.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Research assignment summary

Assessment Type [1]: Qualitative analysis task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 8 hours
Due: **Week 8**
Weighting: **20%**

This task involves the submission of a written 200 word abstract for the major research assignment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Evaluate ecological aspects of environmental problems, including key stakeholders and important incentive effects, and the role of ecological constraints.
- Critically analyse 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.
- Assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

Research assignment

Assessment Type [1]: Case study/analysis
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 22 hours
Due: **June 15**
Weighting: **40%**

The research assignment will include a 3000-word literature review of a topic in ecological economics.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Evaluate ecological aspects of environmental problems, including key stakeholders and important incentive effects, and the role of ecological constraints.
- Critically analyse 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.
- Assess and compare policy alternatives in relation to environmental issues from the perspective of ecological economics.

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[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

Students are advised to check https://timetables.mq.edu.au for times. This unit includes online learning consisting of recorded and interactive components. It is recommended that students attend all online sessions.

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.

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

Section 1: Introduction, key principles

- Introduction and definition of ecological economics

- Key ecological and economic principles

- Renewable and non-renewable resources

Section 2: Microeconomics

- Markets

- Externalities

- Market failure

Section 3: Macroeconomics

- Money

- Globalisation

- Measures of economic output and welfare

- Sustainable development and limits to growth

Section 4: Policy

- General overview

- Carbon pricing

- Distribution and equity

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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
- Assessment Procedure
- Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

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.