

**The University of North Carolina at Greensboro**  
**Joseph M. Bryan School of Business and Economics**  
**Department of Economics**

**Course:** ECO 380 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (3:3)

**Prerequisites:** ECO 201; or permission of instructor

**Instructor Information:** Prof. Stephen P. Holland

Email: [sphollan@uncg.edu](mailto:sphollan@uncg.edu)

Open Office Hours: Wed. 11:00am-12:00pm via Zoom or Fri. 11:00am-12:00pm in Bryan 465.

Feel free to schedule an appointment via email or with <https://holland-uncg-econ.youcanbook.me/>

**Course Description:** This course applies the tools of economics to analyze questions about natural resource usage and the environment. You will learn the concepts through writing, working problems, manipulating models, visiting environmental sites (?), doing mathematics, drawing graphs, describing economic processes, graphing with MS Excel, attending events, reflecting on events, and researching current policies.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

- Market efficiency: How competitive markets with supply and demand can allocate most resources to the uses with their highest value for society.
- External costs: How pollution (and other external costs) lead to a market failure such that markets do not allocate resources to the highest value use.
- Benefit-cost analysis: How society can use benefit-cost analysis to guide interventions in a market economy.
- Some current energy and environmental issues and policies: How the U.S. currently addresses energy and environmental issues such as energy use, climate change, air pollution, and environmental risk with a focus on economic instruments such as environmental taxes and cap-and-trade.

**Required Course Materials: (available in Canvas)**

(main text) *Markets and the Environment 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Island Press Foundations of Environmental Studies) by Nathaniel O. Keohane and Sheila M. Olmstead

(secondary text) *Energy Economics* (Routledge Textbooks in Environmental and Agricultural Economics) by Peter M. Schwarz

The two textbooks are available through the UNCG library and through Canvas and do not need to be purchased. Other materials will also be available through the UNCG library and Canvas.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance counts for 5% of the course grade. You are allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. The third unexcused absence will drop your attendance grade by 25%. For each absence after the third, your attendance grade drops by an additional 25% percentage points. Excessive tardies may be counted as absences.

There are few acceptable excuses for missing class. These include a death in the family, a serious illness documented by a physician, a religious holiday, and a University-sponsored event. Acceptable excuses must be requested and approved by email by the instructor before the date of absence. Any absence without a prior approval by email by the instructor will be

counted as an unexcused absence.

**Grading:** Course grades are based on the following grading opportunities and weights:

Attendance	5%
Assignments	15%
Research Paper	25%
Journaling Project	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

Assignments may include group work, informal writing, discussions, problem sets, and in-class questions or group work.

Course grades are assigned based on the following percentage of weighted total points:

A	93% to 100%
A-	90% to 93%
B+	86% to 90%
B	83% to 86%
B-	80% to 83%
C+	76% to 80%
C	73% to 76%
C-	70% to 73%
D+	66% to 70%
D	63% to 66%
D-	60% to 63%
F	below 60%

Grades are calculated directly in Canvas and are not rounded up. An average of 89.999% is a B+. An average of 90.000% is an A-. The grades reported in Canvas are the best estimate of your current performance. Be sure that all scores in Canvas are correct.

**Exams:** The course has one midterm exam and a *cumulative* final exam. The final exam is during the scheduled time for the final exam. The exams use a variety of assessment measures to provide an opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the material.

**Extra credit:** Students may earn extra credit by completing extra-credit “projects”. Extra credit is a privilege, which must be earned by conscientious work in the course. Students should pre-approve by email any extra-credit projects. Projects should be submitted promptly, and late submissions may be discounted. All extra credit projects are due by Reading Day.

**Office hours and tutoring:** You can attend office hours singly or in groups. Office hours are most productive when you come prepared with specific questions. To sign up for office hours, go to the webpage: <https://holland-uncg-econ.youcanbook.me/> The webpage will allow you to access my calendar and sign up for a time slot.

Many students benefit from tutoring. You can request a tutor through the “Student Success Center” <http://success.uncg.edu/> or through the Economics Department. Group study session for review will be scheduled before exams.

**Group Work:** You are encouraged to work together in groups. You may work together on assignments for class, but all submitted work must be your own.

**Student Expectations:** Mastering complex material requires you to be actively involved in the learning process. Studies show that students who are active participants in the classroom and who complete assignments learn more and get significantly higher grades than do students who are only passively involved. As a result, it is important that you:

1. Read the textbook before attending class.
2. Take notes and actively engage in class.
3. Review your notes from class and reread the textbook.
4. Complete all assignments.

Students are responsible for all materials presented in class and for all assigned materials.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. Refer to the following URL:

<https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/> or the UNCG *Undergraduate Bulletin/Graduate Bulletin* or: <http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/>

In addition, the Bryan School Faculty Assembly and the Bryan School Student Advisory Council have adopted a set of *Faculty and Student Guidelines* that defines expected behavior for both faculty and student. For more information about these *Guidelines* consult:

<http://bae.uncg.edu/students-resources/>

**Accommodations:** UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, oars.uncg.edu.

Students may request accommodations for religious holidays under applicable laws. See <https://catalog.uncg.edu/academic-regulations-policies/university-policies/> for more information.

Students should remind the instructor in advance when accommodation affects course activities, e.g., before taking exams, to ensure that the instructor has updated systems accordingly.

**Health and Wellness:** Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to [recovery@uncg.edu](mailto:recovery@uncg.edu).