

SYLLABUS
AAE 643: FOUNDATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON
SPRING 2023

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR:

Prof. Corbett Grainger
412 Taylor Hall
608.262.3651
corbett.grainger@wisc.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 (or drop by/by appointment)

LECTURE INFORMATION:

Class Location: Taylor B30
Class Meetings: Tues/Thurs 2:30pm to 3:45pm
Credit Hours: 3 Credits

How 3 credits are earned: the class is organized based on an expected time investment of 45 hours of work per credit hour. One credit is the learning that takes place in at least 45 hours of learning activities, which include time in lectures or class meetings, in person or online, preparing homework, exams, presentations, tutorials, reading, writing, studying, preparation for any of these activities, and any other learning activities.

Course URL: <https://canvas.wisc.edu/>

II. INSTRUCTIONAL INFORMATION

Instructional Mode: All face-to-face

TEXTBOOK AND READINGS:

Some readings will be from

Daniel J. Phaneuf and Till Requate, *A Course in Environmental Economics: Theory, Policy, and Practice*, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

You can order the book from Amazon or directly from the CUP website (note that a paperback version is available).

I will augment the book with journal articles designed to illustrate the contemporary application of ideas covered in the text. Articles and supplemental materials will be posted on Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your course grade will be based on your performance on one midterm exam, a comprehensive final exam, several homework/reading summary assignments, a writing assignment, and

participation in class. The following percentages will be used to determine your final mark:

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Paper	25%
Participation in class	15%
Homework	10%

Exams:

The midterm exam will be around Spring Break. The final exam is scheduled for **May 8** at 7:45AM - 9:45AM. I may, **however, move the exam to the last week of class.**

Homework:

Homework assignments will be a mixture of analytical exercises, empirical analysis, and short reviews of current literature. These will be announced in class and on Canvas and due in class.

Paper:

For the paper students will prepare a 10-15 page literature *critique* on a contemporary empirical topic that we will agree on together. A literature critique is more than a literature review in that it should go beyond simply describing what has been written on a topic. I will give you more specific guidance during the semester, but here are a few examples of things your paper should cover:

- Historical motivation for the topic
- Identification of key legacy and recent papers
- Summary of theoretical and empirical knowledge
- Data sources and methods used in the area
- Discussion of limitations in the current literature
- Suggestions for research that would fill existing knowledge gaps.

If you are taking another course that also requires a paper, I encourage you to select a topic that can be used for both assignments, but talk to me *and the other instructor* to make this clear. I will set up a meeting with each of you during the first half of the semester to discuss ideas for topics. A first draft of your paper will be due by week 14 of the semester, with the final draft due the last day of class.

Participation/Readings:

The participation grade will be based on the following:

1) your active participation in discussion, and
2) one brief response to each required article reading. To facilitate discussion, these will be due at 9:00 a.m. on the day of class that article will be discussed. These will be announced in advance in class and on Canvas. For each response, you should answer the following:

- a) What was interesting in this article?
- b) What was the research question?
- c) What didn't you understand?
- d) What is a research question that could be asked as an extension or on a related topic?

GRADING

I will determine your grades based on the following percentages, which will arise from the numerical scores I assign to each of the components. I reserve the right to adjust these cutoffs downward.

$\geq 93\%$	A
$< 93\% \text{ \& } \geq 88\%$	AB
$< 88\% \text{ \& } \geq 83\%$	B
$< 83\% \text{ \& } \geq 78\%$	BC
$< 78\% \text{ \& } \geq 70\%$	C
$< 70\% \text{ \& } \geq 60\%$	D
$< 59\%$	F

CAPSULE STATEMENT:

This course will provide a survey of environmental and resource economics, including canonical ideas and contemporary research questions. Focus areas include foundational models of human/environment interactions, definition and evaluation of the suite of environmental policy instruments, measuring environmental costs and benefits, and examining natural resource use.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to provide graduate students with interest in environmental and resource economics with a broad overview of the field's historical development, and its place in contemporary economics and policy. Students will come away with an appreciation for the breadth of topics that have been investigated, the analytical and applied tools used by environmental economists, and the field's evolution from a niche area into mainstream economics. Although the class will use quantitative methods, the emphasis is not on the mastery of technique. Instead, students will gain knowledge of the techniques that need to be mastered, in order to pursue research in the various topical areas.

PREREQUISITES:

Students should have familiarity with micro theory at the level of AAE 635 and applied econometrics at the level of AAE 636.

III. OTHER INFORMATION

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense. All sources and assistance used in preparing your papers must be precisely and explicitly acknowledged. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism or academic misconduct is not a defense. It is your responsibility to be sure. Copying even a few words or phrases or paraphrasing material without a reference constitutes plagiarism. Always cite your sources, including information from the internet (i.e. you can always give the URL). For more information on writing and source citation, the following may be helpful <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Documentation.html>

Academic Integrity: By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UW-Madison's community of scholars in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct comprises the integrity of the university. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment/course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. Substantial or repeated cases of misconduct will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards for additional review. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please read the following information <http://students.wisc.edu/doso/acadintegrity.html> or speak with the instructor.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: "The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. <http://mcburney.wisc.edu/facstaffother/faculty/syllabus.php>