

McGill University

ECON 225: Economics of the Environment

Fall 2024: August 28th to December 4th

5:35PM - 6:55PM

STBIO S1/4

Instructor: Dr. Hervé Robert Horner

Office: LEA 438

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Website: MyCourses

Office Hours: Typically after each class

TAs:

- 1) Nethmal Chandralal: nethmal.chandralal@mail.mcgill.ca
- 2) Yarina You: yuanru.you@mail.mcgill.ca
- 3) TBD

Important: When contacting your professor by email, please be sure to include the TAs in your email as well in order to receive a response.

Students are expected to read carefully and follow instructions below:

1) In accord with McGill University's Charter of Student Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives. (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue. (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

2) McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See McGill's guide to academic honesty for more information.)

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et procédures disciplinaires. (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 29 janvier 2003) (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le guide pour l'honnêteté académique de McGill.)

3) Lecture and associated material for this course are not to be reproduced or placed in the public domain. Each of you are permitted to use these materials for your own purposes, but you cannot allow others to use it by posting it online or giving it or selling it to others who may copy it and make it available. Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions) may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that copyright infringements can be subject to follow-up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

4) The University and your course instructor are committed to maintaining teaching and learning spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all. To this end, offensive or harmful language arising in course contexts may be cause for disciplinary action.

5) In the event of circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change. As such portions of the course may be offered remotely, if conditions lead to this being necessary.

Course Overview

A study of the application of economic theory to questions of environmental policy. Particular attention will be given to the measurement and regulation of pollution, congestion and waste and other environmental aspects of specific economies.

Required Textbook

ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ISBN: 9781119693505

BY GOODSTEIN, EBAN S. AND POLASKY, STEPHEN

The required textbook is available to purchase or to rent at the McGill University Bookstore.

Course Assessment:

Participation in online discussion forums.....	15%
Article analysis	15%
Group Case Study Analysis 1.....	15%
Group Case Study Analysis 2.....	15%
Final Research Project	40%

*All due dates will be posted in the **Course Calendar** under the **Content** tab in myCourses. Be sure to check this regularly. All assignments are due by 11:59PM on their listed due dates.*

Course Lectures

- The lecture format for ECON 225 largely follows the assigned textbook. However, finance and digital marketing lectures will be also incorporated into this course. The reasoning behind this is that it is necessary to gain practical skills in these fields of study in order to better understand economics. Real-world skills will therefore be taught in addition to theoretical textbook knowledge. For some, this may be the first and the last economics course that they may take in their lives. For economics majors, it will be a useful addition to their curriculum.
- The ultimate goal for the course is to become conversant in issues associated with our current economic system, the environment, and how economics attempts to approach issues such as climate change and pollution. Focus will largely be on understanding how economists and economic thinking think their way through these issues, as well as on some of the analytical tools they use to make decisions. The objective for the course is in teaching students not only about economic theory and tools, but also how to approach complex societal issues affecting almost all nations today. In working towards these objectives it is expected that you read the assigned textbook material associated with each class prior to lecture.
- There will be several lectures that deviate from the textbook to explore topics in greater detail throughout the term.
- Material associated with the course, including lecture slides and supplementary readings, are found on myCourses.
- There is a feature on myCourses that allows you to turn off notifications emanating from this course. If you do this and you miss a direct message from me over the course of the semester that might mean you miss something very important. I understand notification/email fatigue, but there are times that I really need to pass on a message to students and if you miss this it could be problematic towards your goal that is to earn the best grade possible.
- Lectures are not recorded nor are they live-streamed during class hours. Attendance at lecture is not mandatory and we will not be taking attendance. We just do the lecturing and mark the assignments and history shows that those who attend lectures tend to do well. While it is likely possible for you to learn all the material on your own without attending class, that's a gamble. In short: if you want to do well, you should try your best to come to class.
- Students registered with McGill's Student Accessibility and Achievement Office are requested to contact this office at the beginning of the term and request documentation outlining any possible accommodations. If applicable, examination and other necessary

accommodations will be communicated between student and instructor.

Essay and Reflections

- Please see individual course instruction documents uploaded to mycourses for detailed outlines and instructions.