

McGill University
Department of Economics
ECON 347 - 001
Economics of Climate Change
FALL 2020

Professor: **Dr. Micah Hewer**

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Course Location: **ONLINE (Zoom)**

Course meeting times: **Mondays & Wednesdays 1:05 PM – 2:25 PM**

Office: **ONLINE (Zoom)**

Office Hours: **Fridays 1:05 PM – 2:25 PM**

Number of Credits: **3 credits**

Teaching Assistant: **Tamara Lalonde** (tamara.lalonde@mail.mcgill.ca)

Course Prerequisites:

ECON 208 and ECON 209 (or equivalent): ECON 230 or ECON 250; or the combination of MGCR 293 and ECON 295.

Course Objectives:

This course will follow a sector-based approach for covering the economic impacts of climate change, while taking a geographic perspective on these impacts across Canada. Canadian industries most vulnerable to climate change will be identified and reviewed with an economic focus. The course will follow a case study approach to learning: reviewing the available academic literature, presenting the relationship between weather and climate with these economic sectors, and discussing the economic implications of climate change from a Canadian perspective. The desired outcome is for students to become more familiar with the hot topics related to climate change impacts across Canada while exploring and critiquing the economic risks and opportunities they present.

Textbook and Materials:

There is no required textbook for the course. It is important that you attend lectures. The material will be drawn from various sources and will be posted directly on myCourses. Journal articles and research papers which are required or suggested reading for the course will be made accessible on the course webpage during the semester. You should check myCourses for updates on a regular basis. A touchstone resource and reference for the course is the following report:

National Round Table on Environment and the Economy (2011). **PAYING THE PRICE: THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE FOR CANADA**. Government of Canada. Available at: <http://nrt-trn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/paying-the-price.pdf>

Grading Scheme:

Your grade this semester will be based on:

- Economic sector review 1 (15%) - Sep. 21
- Economic sector review 2 (15%) - Oct. 12
- Economic sector review 3 (15%) - Nov. 2
- Regional climate change review (20%) - Nov. 23
- Economic Impacts of Climate Change Report (35%) - Dec. 9

More information on the evaluation components will be provided during lectures and detailed instructions will be posted on myCourses.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week (dates)	Topic
0 (Wed. Sep. 2)	Course Introduction
1 (Sep. 7 & 9)	Understanding Global Climate Change
2 (Sep. 14 & 16)	Canadian Climate Change Impacts
3 (Sep. 21 & 23)	Climate Change Impact Assessment
4 (Sep. 28 & 30)	Wine Industry
5 (Oct. 5 & 7)	Forest Fires
6 (Oct. 12-14)	Ski Industry
7 (Oct. 19 & 21)	Lake Ice
8 (Oct. 26 & 28)	Parks & Protected Areas
9 (Nov. 2 & 4)	Wheat Production
10 (Nov. 9 & 11)	Cruise Industry
11 (Nov. 16 & 18)	Human Health
12 (Nov. 23 & 25)	The Toronto Zoo, Final Paper Guidelines

Required Official Statements:

1. *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 (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).*
2. *In accordance with McGill University's Charter of Students Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.*
3. *Instructors who may adopt the use of text-matching software to verify the originality of students' written course work must register for use of the software with Educational Technologies and must inform their students before the drop/add deadline, in writing, of the use of text-matching software in a course.*
4. *If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 514-398-6009 before you do this.*
5. *Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students' Rights" (Chapter One of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook available as a PDF on <http://www.mcgill.ca/study/2010-2011/>).*
6. *McGill University shall strive to be recognized as an environmentally safe and responsible institution, and as a model of environmentally responsible living." (see Environmental Policy for McGill University)*
7. *In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course may be subject to change.*