Advanced Resource and Environmental Economics I
ECO 571 SPRING 2018

Timing: 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM (Tuesday and Thursday)
Location: 422 Aubert Hall
Instructor: Kathleen P. Bell
Professor
School of Economics
302 Winslow Hall
207.581.3156
kpbell@maine.edu

Student Hours: Tuesday (1:00-2:30 PM), Wednesday (9:30-11:00 AM), and by appointment. I welcome you to contact me by email outside of class and student hours to arrange an appointment. I will respond to student e-mails during standard work hours, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. I will also communicate with students using Google Classroom during standard work hours.

Course Description: This course introduces students to: (1) the application of microeconomic theory to resource and environmental policy analysis and (2) the estimation of nonmarket values for environmental quality and natural resources.

Pre-requisite: Students entering the course having successfully completed an advanced microeconomics course (e.g., ECO514) are better prepared to learn the course material and succeed in the course.

Required Textbook

Recommended Textbook

Learning Outcomes: How does microeconomic theory relate to environmental quality and natural resources? What types of analyses do economists conduct to inform natural resource management and environmental policy-decisions? How and why do economists value goods and services associated with environmental and natural resources? By the end of the semester, students will be able to answer these questions well, and achieve the course learning outcomes by being: (1) knowledgeable of applied welfare economics, benefit-cost analysis & other policy analysis methods; (2) knowledgeable of nonmarket valuation approaches; (3) skilled at assessing natural resource and environmental policy issues using microeconomic insights; and (4) proficient at conducting and critiquing nonmarket valuation and policy analysis studies.

Bonus Outcomes: By the end of the semester, I also hope students will strengthen their employment or graduate study opportunities by (1) improving their analytical, statistics, coding, and communication skills; (2) becoming more curious about public policy issues and policy analysis; and (3) better understanding the role of economics and other sciences in supporting private and public decisions about the environment and natural resources.
Google Classroom: I created an ECO571 Google Classroom for this course. We will use Google Classroom to share key course resources, communicate course announcements, post and submit assignments, and engage in discussions.

Assignments, Examinations, and Grading

I designed the course classes, assignments, and examinations to engage students to participate actively in the course and learn the material. By completing readings and assignments, preparing for and taking course examinations, and participating actively in class discussions and activities, you will achieve the course learning outcomes.

Reading Assignments: I expect you to complete the assigned reading prior to class. I have found that doing readings before class improves the way students engage with course material and betters student performance on assignments and examinations. Please refer to the course outline for details on course reading assignments. I make non-textbook reading assignments accessible to students via the course Google Classroom site (refer to the About tab).

Homework Assignments: You will complete several homework assignments during the semester. Assignments will regularly be posted and submitted using Google Classroom. Please note the due dates and due times of these assignments because I do not accept late homeworks unless students have an authorized excuse (see absence/tardiness policy below).

Mid-term Examinations: The tentative dates of the two course mid-term examinations are February 20, 2018 and April 10, 2018. Please make note of these examination dates, for students who miss examinations will receive a failing grade unless their absence is authorized (see absence/tardiness policy below).

Final Examination: The final examination is scheduled for May 10, 2018 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM in 422 Aubert Hall. Please alert Dr. Bell of any conflicts prior to the final exam date, for students who miss examinations will receive a failing grade unless their absence is authorized (see absence/tardiness policy below).

Absence/Tardiness Policy: If students need to reschedule a homework submission date or course examination, they must have an authorized excuse. I understand that extenuating circumstances arise that can make meeting course requirements difficult. Unfortunately, illnesses, death in the family or other difficult events are part of life. Such events are unwelcomed and because I understand how difficult these times are, if you contact me within 48 hours of the event and provide documentation, I will work with you to reschedule a homework due date or provide a make-up examination.

Grading: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following class work:
Homework Assignments (50%) (mean homework score)
Mid-term Examinations (30%) (each examination 15%)
Final Examination (20%)
**Academic Honesty Statement:** Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

**Students Accessibility Services Statement:** If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should meet with Dr. Bell privately as soon as possible.

**Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause):** In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

**Sexual Discrimination Reporting**

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell any of your teachers about sexual discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Behaviors that can be “sexual discrimination” include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. Therefore, all of these behaviors must be reported.

**Why do teachers have to report sexual discrimination?**

The university can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise – for example, if more than one victim reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

**What will happen to a student if a teacher reports?**

An employee from the Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity will reach out to you and offer support, resources, and information. You will be invited to meet with the employee to discuss the situation and the various options available to you. If you have requested confidentiality, the University will weigh your request that no action be taken against the institution’s obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all students. If the University determines that it can maintain confidentiality, you must understand that the institution’s ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action, if warranted, may be limited. There are times when the University may not be able to honor a request for confidentiality because doing so would pose a risk to its ability to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for everyone. If the University determines that it cannot maintain confidentiality, the University will advise you, prior to starting an investigation and, to the extent possible, will share information only with those responsible for handling the institution’s response.
The University is committed to the well-being of all students and will take steps to protect all involved from retaliation or harm.

**If you want to talk in confidence** to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

**For confidential resources on campus:** Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.

**For confidential resources off campus:** Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000 or Partners for Peace: 1-800-863-9909.

**Other resources:** The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

**For support services on campus:** Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at [http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/](http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/)