

ECON 4200-001 - Spring 2021

SENIOR SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

Online meeting times: TR 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. -12:45 a.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Peter Schwarz, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, and Associate, EPIC (Energy Production and Infrastructure Center), UNC Charlotte

ONLINE OFFICE HOURS: TR 2:30–4:00 pm and by appointment.

EMAIL: pschwarz@unc.edu. I will check and reply to emails at 9:00 am, 2:30 pm, and 8:00 pm.

WEB: <https://belkcollege.uncc.edu/directory/peter-schwarz>

CANVAS: Grades, announcements, discussion board, email

Catalog Course Description

An integrative capstone course for the economics major that should normally be taken during the student's last semester of study. The primary objective is to provide a framework in which senior economics majors can review and solidify their understanding of economic concepts by applying those concepts to specific economic issues. Topics vary. Analytical ability and written and oral communication skills are assessed.

Course Prerequisites

ECON 3112 (Econometrics), ECON 3122 (Intermediate Microeconomics), ECON 3123 (Intermediate Macroeconomics), Grade of C or better; Economics Major, Senior Standing

Course Objective

The objective of the Senior Seminar course is to help you continue developing your analytical ability and your written and oral communication skills. This objective can be accomplished while studying any number of topics. Our topic for this offering of the Senior Seminar course is Environmental Economics.

Required Text: Stephen Smith, *Environmental Economics: A Very Short Introduction*, 2011. Approximate cost \$12 through Oxford University Press or your preferred source. Available as ebook (Approximately \$8) or ebook rental (Approximately \$4).

Also required, Geoffrey Heal, *Endangered Economies*. Online copy free through UNC Charlotte Atkins Library <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uncc-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4746351&pq-origsite=primo> or hard copy through Columbia University Press (Approximately \$37) or your preferred source.

Required for Writing: McCloskey, *Economical Writing*. Online free

[http://stephenkinsella.net/WordPress/wp-](http://stephenkinsella.net/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2006/12/Economical%20Writing%20by%20Deirdre%20McCloskey.pdf)

[content/uploads/2006/12/Economical%20Writing%20by%20Deirdre%20McCloskey.pdf](http://stephenkinsella.net/WordPress/wp-content/uploads/2006/12/Economical%20Writing%20by%20Deirdre%20McCloskey.pdf) _or

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/1297271739/fulltextPDF/6BD155CE1A8F4BA9PQ/1?accountid=14605> or you can purchase the 3e or find 2e for free

https://ucema.edu.ar/~dl/CURSOS/Taller_de_Tesis_MAE/McCloskey_Economical_Writing.pdf

Optional: Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style, Fourth Edition*. Online free
<http://www.jlakes.org/ch/web/The-elements-of-style.pdf>

Required for Speaking: U.S. News and World Report, *15 Strategies for Giving Oral Presentations*
<http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/professors-guide/2010/02/24/15-strategies-for-giving-oral-presentations>

Optional: <https://go.owu.edu/~dapeople/ggpresnt.html>

The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class and on Canvas via announcement.

Outline of Topics and Reading Assignments

I. Environmental Economics: A Very Short Introduction

1/21 **The economy and the environment**
Chapter 1

1/26, 1/28 **The economic theory of efficient pollution control**
Chapter 2

1/28 **Writing Project 1 assigned (Due 2/2)**

2/2, 2/4 **Environmental policy: instrument choice**
Chapter 3

Spring Break Feb. 8-12

2/16, 2/18 **Economic information and values in environmental decisions**
Chapter 4

2/23, 2/25 **The economics of climate change**
Chapter 5

2/25 Oral presentations on *Endangered Economies* assigned. (I will do Ch. 1 & 10.)

2/25 **Writing Project 2 assigned (due 3/2)**

II. Endangered Economies: How the Neglect of Nature Threatens Our Prosperity

3/2, 3/4 **Environment and Economy—No Conflict**

Chapter 1

3/9, 3/11 **Market Mistakes and Unpaid-for Externalities are Killing Us**

Chapter 2

3/16, 3/18 **Climate Change: “The Greatest External Effect in Human History”**

Chapter 3

3/23, 3/25 **How to Deal with External Effects**

Chapter 4

3/25 Last day to withdraw from course

3/30, 4/1 **Solving the Climate Problem**

Chapter 5

4/6, 4/8 **Everyone’s Property Is No One’s Property**

Chapter 6

4/13, 4/15 **Natural Capital—Taken for Granted but Not Counted**

Chapter 7

4/20, 4/22 **Valuing Natural Capital**

Chapter 8

4/27, 4/29 **Measuring What Matters**

Chapter 9

4/28, 5/4 **The Next Steps**

Chapter 10

5/4 Writing Project 3 distributed on Endangered Economies; Thursday 5/6 Reading Day

Thur. 5/13 by 1:30 pm TURN IN Writing Project 3

Determination of Grades: A = 90+; B = 80-89.99; C = 70-79.99; D = 60-69.99; F = < 60.

Course grades will be determined by your performance on three take-home writing projects, participation (attendance, quizzes and reading), and oral presentations from Endangered Economies. These components will have the following weights in the calculation of your final grade: 10%, 20%, 30% for the three writing projects, 20% for participation, and 20% for oral presentations. Each of the three writing projects will consist of discussion and analytical components.

As all of you are seniors, take your desire to graduate as planned seriously. Do not miss class, arrive late, leave early, or exit and return during class except under exceptional circumstances. If you know in advance that you will be absent, late, or will have to leave during class, please let me know in advance with a reason for the circumstance in order to minimize the effect on your participation grade. This class is a seminar, which requires your participation.

UNC Charlotte will allow undergraduate students to elect Pass/No Credit (P/N) for up to three undergraduate courses for the entire academic year, no more than two per term. *Spring 2021 Term:* Students must elect Pass/No Credit (P/N) by the date identified in the [Academic Calendar](#) (currently January 27, 2021). Students will be allowed to have the grade of H recorded on transcripts for prerequisite courses in which they earned a C or better. The H grade will signify that they have satisfied progression (prerequisite) requirements.

Students in a progression (prerequisite) course should be advised to complete the course for a letter grade.

Academic Integrity

Students are required to abide by the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at <http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html>.

Disability Accommodations

UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Services <https://ds.uncc.edu/> early in the semester. For more information about accommodations, you may contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit the Office of Disability Services itself in Fretwell 230.

Religious Accommodation:

It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a [Request for Religious Accommodation Form](#) <https://legal.uncc.edu/sites/legal.uncc.edu/files/media/UP409-ReligiousAccommodationForStudents> to their instructor prior to the census date for enrollment for a given semester <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-409>. The census date for each semester (typically the tenth day of instruction) can be found in UNC Charlotte's Academic Calendar <http://registrar.uncc.edu/calendars/calendar.htm>.

The Belk College of Business Diversity Statement

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.