Economics 380: Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
Syllabus
Fall 2008

Professor: Stephen Holland
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Office Hours: Tues. 2-3 and Thurs. 10-11 or by appointment or open door.

Course description: This course applies the tools of economics to analyze questions about
natural resource usage and the environment. You will learn the concepts through: writing,
working problems, manipulating models, playing games, doing mathematics, drawing graphs,
describing economic processes, graphing price trends using MS Excel, and researching current
policies on the internet. We plan to take two field trips: one to a power plant and another to the
local land fill.

Course time and location: 2:00-3:15 in Bryan 111. Please be punctual.

Course goals:
1) Learn about environmental problems from an economic perspective.
2) Be able to apply economic tools to environmental problems.
3) Reinforce skills in economic analysis.
4) Read extensively.
5) Improve writing skills.
6) Improve research skills primarily using the internet.
7) Do simple data manipulations using Excel.
8) Work hard.
9) Have fun!!

Texts: The text for this course is Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, by Frank
Ward. Additional materials may be used as necessary.

Course website: This course will not have a website, but all relevant materials will be posted to
blackboard: http://blackboard.uncg.edu/.

Important Dates: Midterm exam in class on Wednesday, October 15. No class on Wednesday
November 19. Final exam is on Monday, December 15, 12:00-3:00 P.M. (Note change!)

Evaluation: Grades will be based on informal writing, class participation, and homework
assignments, 15%; a writing/data analysis project, 15%; a midterm exam, 30%; and a final exam,
40%. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Reading the textbook: Before you come to class, you should read the chapter for the first time.
I recommend reading quickly the first time. Pay attention to the “Outline” and “Objectives” on
the first page of the chapter. Skim through and look at all the headings and sub-headings of the
chapter. You can write down a one-page outline of the chapter with space for a few notes. Read
the chapter summary at the end. Think of any questions you might wish to ask in the lecture.

Your second reading of the chapter should slow and careful. You should do this careful reading
immediately after the chapter has been discussed in class. Pay careful attention to things that
were emphasized in class. This is a time for filling in your outline with details. Make notes of
anything that is still unclear and ask your classmates or professor about them. You might wish to
answer the review questions at the end of the chapter and discuss them with you classmates. Look up any words that are unclear in the glossary at the end of the book or in the library/on the internet.

Your third and fourth readings should be relatively quick readings sometime before the exam. Use your outline, notes, and the review questions to refresh your memory. Think of the big picture, and carefully reread anything you may have missed.

**Taking notes in class:** Lecture is primarily from Powerpoint slides, which are available on Blackboard. Before the lecture, you should download the slides and print them. I recommend that you print “Handouts” either with “Slides per page” set at 3 or 6. Each slide will be numbered. You can take notes either directly on the slides or in a notebook. In your notebook, you can refer back to the slide number at the relevant point. You will want a notebook for this class, since we will occasionally do work which requires you to take notes in a notebook.

**Technology in class:** As a courtesy to your classmates, please turn off all cellphones, pagers, and laptop computers at the start of class.

**Field trips:** We plan to take two field trips in this class: one to the local landfill (transfer station) and another to a local power plant. They will be during class time and transportation will be arranged. They will be after the midterm/fall break; however, the dates are still to be determined.

**Class schedule:**

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<td>8/25/2008</td>
<td>Intro</td>
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