



Econ2170A 570
Environmental Economics
Fall 2026

Instructor: Natalia Bezmaternykh, PhD
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Course Information

Mode of Instruction: In-Person

Calendar Description:

This course in applied microeconomics examines the connections between market failure, environmental problems, and government regulation. Topics include externalities, cost benefit analysis, public goods, the global environment, and the valuation of non-market goods.

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B or permission from the Department.

Anti-requisite(s): Economics 2192A/B if taken at King's University College in 2023-24.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: ECONOMIC

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.



King's University College at Western University
School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics

2170A Environmental Economics¹
Fall 2026, Section 570

Lectures are 3 hours per week (in person)

Prerequisite: Economics 1021A/B and ECN 1022A/B or permission on the Department

Antirequisites: 2172A/B, 3374A/B, and 2192A-Fall 2023

Instructor Name: [Natalia Bezmaternykh](#)
Office Location: FB 109 (Faculty Building, ground floor)
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00pm and Wednesdays, 12:30 – 2:30pm (hybrid: you are welcome to come in person or join on Zoom) or by appointment (Zoom)²
Web Site: the OWL course website [OWL Brightspace](#)
Email address: nbezmate@uwo.ca
Personal Webpage: www.bezmaternykh.ca

Email Policy

Email address: nbezmate@uwo.ca

Students must use their uwo email address, so it does not end up in spam and can be verified. Subject line must include course and section number and should include the topic of the email, precisely for this class, **please start the subject line with 2170A**. Emails need to be respectful and concise listing your issue, what you have done to solve it, and what you hope I can help you with; for example, to explain a concept, provide feedback, to make an appointment to meet in person or on zoom etc. I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24-48 hours on business (working) days. All course changes and updates will be communicated to students via the OWL course website, so please check that frequently.

Course Description and Outcomes

The course is in applied microeconomics, and it is about the effect of human decisions on the quality of the environment. The course applies the tools of economic analysis to the problems of pollution, the use of nature (including natural resources), and economic development. The economic tools include graphical analysis, the use of formulas, and game theory. The course examines the connections between market failure (including market processes when externalities in production and consumption are present), environmental problems, and government

¹Please note that this is a **Tentative Outline**. Also, please note that outline is always a subject to change. It is **strongly** advisable to check OWL and email regularly and ask question during classes and office hours.

²Standard office hours: Zoom links will be announced on OWL; by appointment: emailed to the student.

regulations. The relationship between the environment and the economic system, sources of pollution and methods of pollution abatement are studied. Application of cost-benefit analysis to the problems of environmental goods is evaluated. As many environmental problems are of global scale, international aspects are also covered. Please see the detailed list of topics below.

Teaching Methods

Teaching Methods

The course will be delivered **in person**, and Zoom will be used to conduct office hours.

Course Materials

Text 1: Environmental Economics: An Introduction, 2024, Barry C. Field and Martha K. Field, McGraw Hill (e-book is available), older editions are fine as well. eBook ISBN: 9781264646449
Print ISBN: 9781266887390

UWO Bookstore: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2026A&courses%5B0%5D=570_KC/ECO2170A

Text 2: Economics and the Environment, 9th edition. E.S. Goodsten and S. Polasky, Wiley.

Other texts: will be introduced throughout the semester and provided to students at **NO COST** (e.g. library links and/or links to working papers and/or summary of required material)

The materials will be posted on OWL (lecture slides, practice questions, and so on).

Course Topics³

<u>Weeks/Dates</u> <u>dd/mm/yy</u>	<u>Topics and Material⁴</u>
Week 1 10/09/26	▪ Course introduction / detailed discussion of the outline / questions & clarifications ▪ What is Environmental Economics? (Chapter 1, Text 1 and Chapter 1, Text 2) Participation = 1.5%
Week 2 17/09/26	▪ The Economy and the Environment ▪ Benefits and Costs, Supply and Demand (Chapter 2 & 3, Text 1) Participation = 1.5%
Week 3 24/09/26	▪ Benefits and Costs, Supply and Demand ▪ Markets, Externalities, and Public Goods (Chapter 3 & 4, Text 1) Participation = 1.5%
Week 4 01/10/26	▪ The Economics of Environmental Quality ▪ Framework of Analysis (Chapter 5 & 6, Text 1) Participation = 1.5%
Week 5	▪ Midterm Exam

³ Subject to change.

⁴ Please note, that those topics are on the broad side, and subtopics will be specified during lectures.

08/10/26	▪ Coverage: chapters 1,2,3,4,5, & 6 + all additional materials provided during lectures Midterm Exam = 25%
15/10/26	READING WEEK
Week 6 22/10/26	▪ Benefit-Cost Analysis: Benefits ▪ Benefit-Cost Analysis: Costs (Chapter 7 & 8, Text 1) Participation = 1.5%
Week 7 29/10/26	▪ Benefit-Cost Analysis: Costs ▪ Criteria for Evaluating Environmental Policies (Chapter 8 & 9, Text 1) Participation = 1.5%
Week 8 05/11/2026	▪ Decentralized Policies: Liability, Laws, Property Rights, Voluntary Actions ▪ Command-and-Control Strategies: The Case of Standards (Chapter 10 & 11, Text 1) ▪ Presentations Participation = 1.5% Presentations = 20%⁵
Week 9 12/11/26	▪ Command-and-Control Strategies: The Case of Standards ▪ Incentive Based Strategies: Environmental Changes and Subsidies (Chapter 11 & 12, Text 1) ▪ Presentation Participation = 1.5% Presentations = 20%⁶
Week 10 19/11/26	▪ Incentive Based Strategies: Environmental Changes and Subsidies ▪ Incentive-Based Strategies: Market Trading Systems (Chapter 12 & 13, Text 1) Participation = 1.5%
Week 11 26/11/26	▪ International Environmental Agreements ▪ Globalization (Chapter 19 & 20, Text 1) Participation = 1.5%
Week 12 03/12/26	▪ Economic Development and the Environment (Chapter 21, Text 1) ▪ Review

⁵ If your presentation is on that day you can earn both presentation and participation, and if you don't present on that day, then only participation.

⁶ Please see above.

Course Evaluation

The weights and scheduled dates for term papers, mid-term and final exams are as follows:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Weight (%)</i>	<i>Date: dd/mm/yyyy</i>
Participation	15	During lectures
Mid-term Exam	25	08/10/2026
In Class Presentation	20	05/11/2026 and 12/11/2026
Final Exam	40	TBD

Participation

Class discussions are an important part of the learning process for this course. I will always encourage a rich dialogue in which you are strongly encouraged to share your perspectives and experiences with your classmates. Study groups are strongly encouraged.

Examples of “participation”: solving/attempting practice questions, participating in group discussions, summarizing reading/documentaries/so on.

Students are expected to come to the majority of classes but can miss up to two classes throughout the semester without any penalty to your participation grade.

Midterm Exam

1. The midterm exam will be written on **Thursday, October 18th**, within our standard lecture time.
 2. The exam contains 60 multiple choice questions.
 3. Coverage: the entire material we cover by then, precisely Chapter 1- 6 + everything else we discuss during lectures.
 4. Practice Questions: weekly practice questions will be posted on OWL
- If you are sick and cannot take the exam, please email me before the exams starts.

Presentations and Opportunity to work in groups

You are welcome to work in groups (up to 4 people) or individually. Please, pick a topic (research question) that is related to the field of Environmental Economics and/or topics covered in this course. A list of suggested topics/questions will be posted on OWL. Please note that you are encouraged to choose your own research question as well. All questions must be approved by me (by email). The deadline to have your research question approved is a week after the midterm exam, by **October 22nd**. If you decide to work in group, then the member whose name is alphabetically first should send the email with the topic to be approved, and this email should also include the following: (i) the list of group members; (ii) the division of labour between the group members in both report and presentation, and please note, that all group members have to participate during the presentation.

The length of the presentation would be finalized later in the course as it would depend on number of groups, but approximately, 7-15 mins. Below are some basic guidelines, but please note that everything will be discussed in class as well:

1. Clearly and concisely states your motivation, research question; brief overview of the literature; an answer to your research question using either data or using the evidence in the literature; summary of your contribution or answer to the question you posed.
2. Min number of references is 5, and all 5 must be published in peer reviewed journals.
3. Slides are clear and easy to follow.
4. Presentation is well timed.

You would need to submit the slides and a brief report on the topic. Report is min 4 pages long, typed and double spaced. The report must include the following: (1) an introduction providing context to the reader and motivating your research, you will also pose your research question in this section; (2) an overview of the literature in which you discuss relevant research studies that have contributed to the literature; (3) an answer to your research question using either data and corresponding analysis and/or using the evidence in the literature, (4) a conclusion summarizing your contribution or answer to the question you posed. The paper should also include a title page with your information (name(s) and student number(s)), the date, course code and title of your project. A list of references used in your research paper should be attached as the last page of the term paper. Both slides and report need to be submitted on the day of your presentation. No later submissions will be accepted unless there are medical or other exceptional circumstances.

Final Exam

Final Exam: time, day, and location tba. The final exam will cover the entire semester. The duration of the exam will be 2 hours and it will be scheduled during the final examination period. I will post an announcement on OWL once the date is released.

Academic consideration for the exams (midterms and final) requires submission of formal supporting documents. Students who missed the exam for a valid and approved reason may be eligible for one make-up midterm during the semester, should they miss that day they can write the midterm the next time the course is offered. For students approved by the dean's office to write a make-up Midterm Exam, there will be a make-up exam on the following Friday, from 2:30 – 4:30 PM.

Grading

Grades will be posted on OWL. I will make every effort to grade your work in a timely manner (1-2 weeks).

Some Important Notes:

1. It is a student's responsibility to check OWL regularly and all our important announcements will be posted there.
2. Students are responsible for their own action. There are no other evaluation options other than the one provided above.
3. No assignment will be accepted past the deadline. The assignment answer key could be available before the assignment being returned to students (normally within 5 business days past the due date).

4. The final exam will cover all the topics we cover during the lecture, not necessarily all the topics listed above in this course outline. We will try to cover every topic, however, in case some topics are interesting to most of the students and the instructor feels more time should be spent on the topic, other topics could be saved for future courses.

Natalia Bezmaternykh holds the copyright in the works of all original materials used in this course and students registered in this course can use the materials for the purposes of this course but no other use is permitted, and there can be no sale or transfer or use of the work for any other purpose without explicit permission of Natalia Bezmaternykh.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2026-2027

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found [here](#) Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under Special Examinations).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://kings.uwo.ca/community/library/services/accessibility/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's (Western) is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

Mental Health and Wellness at King's - King's University College

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see https://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/about/governance/policies/board/Board%20Policy%203_1%20Code%20of%20Student%20Responsibilities%20and%20Conduct.pdf

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.