

Empirical Environmental Economics

Course title – Intitulé du cours	Empirical Environmental Economics
Level / Semester – Niveau /semestre	PhD / MRes
School – Composante	Ecole d'Economie de Toulouse
Teacher – Enseignant responsable	MISSIRIAN Anouch
Lecture Hours – Volume Horaire CM	15
TA Hours – Volume horaire TD	0
TP Hours – Volume horaire TP	0
Course Language – Langue du cours	English
TA and/or TP Language – Langue des TD et/ou TP	English

Teaching staff contacts:

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Course Objectives:

Environmental economics mobilises various other branches of economics to study the collision of environmental systems (climate, water, etc.) with human behaviour: in positive terms, how the environment affects economic activity and reciprocally how economic activity alters the environment, and in normative terms, how to design optimal environmental policy. This collision stems from the presence of externalities, and often has first-order consequences on human well-being (e.g., years of life lost due to air pollution); their characterisation, quantification and remediation with adequate policy instruments is central to environmental economics. This course aims at getting the students acquainted with the frontier of research in empirical environmental economics, by identifying areas of active research and current knowledge gaps. Besides a topical focus, the course emphasizes the diversity of approaches as far as both economic field and empirical methods are concerned.

After having taken the course, the students will be familiar with the current frontier in environmental economics and its antecedents of note. They will be able to critically engage with research in that domain, whether their own or that of others. For those interested in environmental economics as a PhD field, they will create the embryo of a research project.

Prerequisites:

Good knowledge of intermediate microeconomics, standard econometric methods, and basic mathematics for economists. Having taken the Advanced Environmental Economics course is recommended but not mandatory.

Practical information about the sessions:

Students are expected to come to class prepared (having done the readings). Laptops and tablets are accepted. Attendance (and participation) is mandatory.

Grading system:

The grade for this course will have three components:

- Two referee reports (30%): Each week one paper will be proposed for a referee report (due weeks 2 and 4, or 3 and 5). Students are expected to critically evaluate the paper refereed, and write a 2-page long report. In the off-weeks, a précis (short subjective summary) of the paper is asked instead, not evaluated but still required.
- Replication/extension of one of the papers discussed in class (30%).
- Final exam (40%): 1-hour closed-book evaluation.

Bibliography/references:

There is no required textbook for this class. Lecture notes and papers will be posted on Moodle.

Session planning:

The course will consist in 3-hour lectures taking place over 5 weeks:

Introduction. Economics of biodiversity and ecosystem change.

Trade and the environment.

Distributional effect and environmental justice.

Policy instruments: nudges and information.

Liability; Policies that failed

Note: this year the course will be taught jointly with Advanced Environmental Economics (co-taught with Prof. Mathias Reynaert), which will take place over the full 10 weeks of the semester; Empirical Environmental Economics makes up the first half of the course (first 5 weeks).

Distance learning:

Interactive virtual classrooms when face-to-face is not allowed.