

Dalhousie University – Department of Economics
ECON 3335 – Environmental Economics
May 11 – June 26, 2026

*Dalhousie University is located in **Mi'kma'ki**, the ancestral and unceded territory of the **Mi'kmaq**. We are all Treaty people. We acknowledge the histories, contributions, and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities who have been here for over 400 years.*

Instructor:

Prof. Catherine Boulatoff

boulatoff@dal.ca

Econ A11

Office hours:

By appointment (Teams), weekdays with 24 hours' notice

Course Delivery:

This course is delivered **fully online and asynchronous via Brightspace**.

Each week opens Monday at 12:01 AM and closes Sunday at 11:59 PM.

Each weekly module includes:

- Short recorded lectures (10–15 min segments)
- Assigned readings
- Applied activity or case study
- Discussion forums

There are **no live sessions** and no required synchronous meetings.

Course Objective:

This course examines the interactions between the environment and the economy. Students will apply intermediate microeconomic tools to:

- Analyze market failures affecting air and water
- Evaluate environmental policy instruments
- Conduct benefit-cost analysis
- Assess global environmental challenges
- Examine distributional and ethical implications of environmental policy

Prerequisite:

Econ 2200: Intermediate Microeconomics

Course Materials:

Required Text

Callan & Thomas (2013) *Environmental Economics & Management* (6th ed.)

Recommended

Hanley (N), Jason Shogren, and Ben White (2019) Introduction to Environmental Economics. 3d ed. Oxford.

Tietenberg T. and Lynne Lewis (2008) Environmental & Natural Resource Economics. 8th Ed. Addison-Wesley.

Stavins (2021) Economics of the Environment (\$89.71 at the bookstore, also available (cheaper) online.

Additional articles and videos posted on Brightspace.

Grading Scheme:

Component	Weight
Structured Discussion Forums (3/4)	15%
Applied Data Assignment (individual)	20%
Policy Brief (individual)	20%
Final Assessment (in person)	45%

Online Course Expectations

Because this is a compressed 6+-week course:

- Expect 8–10 hours of work per week.
- Log in at least 3 times per week.
- Begin assignments early.
- Participate meaningfully in discussions.

Structured Discussion Forums (15%)

Three discussion forums across the term out of the four forums posted (on Brightspace under *Discussions*)

Each forum includes:

- Post related to original by instructor post: 400–500 words.
- Use economic reasoning
- Use other examples
- Make reference to course material
- Incorporate at least one outside source (where required, peer reviewed journals preferred)

Applied Data Assignment (20%) - Due Week 5

Students will analyze environmental datasets (e.g., emissions, energy prices, climate damages).

Deliverables to be submitted on Brightspace under *Assignments*

- Short analysis (800–1000 words)
- Graph(s)
- Interpretation of results using economic concepts

Policy Brief (20%) - Due Week 6

Students will write a 1,200-word policy brief recommending an environmental policy for a jurisdiction of their choice.

The policy brief must include:

- Identification of market failure
- Policy comparison (at least two instruments)
- Efficiency and equity considerations
- Brief cost-benefit reasoning
- References (minimum 4 peer reviewed sources)

Final Assessment (45%)

- In person: on the last day of classes (June 26th between 5:30pm and 7:30pm) OR on August 28th, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
- You must pass the final exam to pass the class.
- Mixed format:
 - 15 multiple choice questions
 - 3 short analytical questions (may be based on Discussion Forums)
 - 1 applied policy question (may be based on Discussion Forums)
 - 2 hours

Cumulative but concept-focused (not memorization-heavy). You must pass the final exam to pass the class.

Important Dates:

May 18	Victoria Day, University closed
May 19	Last day to change fall term courses from audit to credit (and vice versa)
May 20	Last day to Change and Add Classes (Summer A)
May 28	Last day to drop without "W"/Last day to change from Audit to Credit and Vice Versa (Summer A)
June 15	Last day to drop with "W" (Summer A)
June 26	Last day of classes

Conversion of Numerical Grades to Final Letter Grades following the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale:

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D	(50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F	(<50)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)		

Course Policies:

Missed/ late assignments:

Forums: Considering that the best three (3) out of the four (4) forums will be counted toward your grade, I will not accept any excuses for missed forum. I do not accept the Student Declaration of Absence form for missed forums. Late forum submission will be counted as a missed forum.

Policy Brief and Applied Data Assignment: Considering that you have several weeks to complete each of these assignments, no missed assignment will be permitted. Any late submission needs to be approved

ahead of time by the instructor. Any not pre-approved late submission will suffer a 10% penalty for each additional hour after the submission deadline.

Missed Final Exam: You may take the in-person final exam either at the end of the summer term (June 26th) or (OR) on the last week of August (Friday 28th). If you miss the final exam for a valid reason, as defined in Section 16.8 of the University Calendar, you will receive an INC or ILL until you take the make-up exam. The make-up exam will be scheduled on the second week of the Fall term. The make-up final exam will also be in person.

Academic integrity:

To maintain academic integrity, you are expected to do your own work on all assignments. The use of generative AI tools is permitted only:

- For grammar editing
- For brainstorming

AI use must not replace economic reasoning or analysis. Any AI assistance must be acknowledged. Unauthorized collaboration constitutes academic misconduct.

Email policy:

I will do my best to respond to email within 24 hours on a weekday, 48 hours on a weekend.

Health and safety:

All students are required to comply with health and safety requirements on campus and should be considerate of others' health concerns. Non-compliance may be reported under the Code of Student Conduct.

Accessibility:

Students requiring accommodations must contact the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA).

Weekly Course Schedule:

Week 1 (May 11–17)

Introduction & Market Failure

Readings: Chapter 1 & Chapter 3

Video: Plastics 101 (National Geographic)

Topics:

- Economy–environment link
- Externalities
- Public goods
- Modeling market failure

Deliverables:

- Discussion Forum 1: Plastics & Externalities (due Sunday by 11:59pm)

Week 2 (May 18–24)

Policy Instruments (Part A)

Readings: Chapter 4

Topics:

- Command-and-control

(Note: Victoria Day May 18 — no deadline that day)

Week 3 (May 25–31)

Policy Instruments (Part B)

Readings: Chapter 5

Topics:

- Market-based instruments
- Carbon taxes vs cap-and-trade

Deliverables:

Discussion Forum 2 (Command and Control or Market Based) (due Sunday by 11:59pm)

Week 4 (June 1–June 7)

Valuation & Cost-Benefit Analysis

Readings: Chapters 7, 8, 9

Topics:

- Valuation methods
- Stated vs revealed preference
- Cost-benefit analysis

Deliverables:

- Discussion Forum 3 (Video: Fast Fashion) (due Sunday by 11:59pm)

Week 5 (June 8–14)

Global Environmental Policy

Readings: Chapter 13

Topics:

- Ozone depletion
- Climate change economics

- Discounting
- Global cooperation

Deliverables:

- Applied Data Assignment (due Sunday by 11:59pm))
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Week 6 (June 15–21)

Development, Poverty & Sustainability

Reading: Chapter 20

Topics:

- Growth vs environment
- Environmental Kuznets Curve
- Sustainable development
- Equity and justice

Deliverables:

- Policy Brief due end of week (due Sunday by 11:59pm)

Week 7 (June 22–26)

Review

Deliverables:

- Discussion Forum 4 (Video: “The Magic Washing Machine”) (due Friday by 11:59pm)
- In person Final Assessment (June 26th (5:30pm – 7:30 pm) or August 28th)