Bemidji State University

ECON 3925: People of the Environment: Economic Perspective

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: Goal 10 - People/Environment, Goal 08 - Global Perspective

This course is a module linked to the interdisciplinary environmental issues course, People and the Environment. It is an integrative study of the natural, social, value-based, and citizen-action contexts for environmental awareness. The disciplinary component surveys economic approaches to and institutional settings for environmental decision making, including our behaviors as consumers and producers. Interdisciplinary perspectives are evaluated in light of different concepts of social well being, including economic efficiency, equity, and sustainability. [Core Curriculum Goal Area 8 & 10]

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/01/2023 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Heighten awareness of environmental challenges and the interconnectedness of human and natural systems in confronting these challenges

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. analyze and evaluate the applications and limitations of neoclassical economic theory towards the environment from a global perspective.
2. analyze and evaluate the differences between sustainability in the neoclassical view, and sustainability from an ecological viewpoint, and further be able to demonstrate the policy implications of each paradigm when confronting environmental challenges.
3. analyze and evaluate the difference between a zero growth economy, and a steady state economy, and each potential for the developed and developing countries.
4. learn and apply value-based decisions that reflects the values, goals, and traditions of cultures and societies beyond the neo-liberal, eurocentric model of decision making.
5. apply the laws of entropy and thermodynamics in studying production and waste, and the assimilative capacity of the environment.
6. analyze and evaluate the limitations of standard GDP quantification and understand the meaning and reasoning behind Green GDP.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 10 - People/Environment
1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
5. Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
6. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

Goal 08 - Global Perspective
1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
None noted