



Instructor: Grace Kim Robbins
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Office location: D200B
Office Hours: MWF: 11am-12pm / TTh: 9:30-10:20am

Course Information

Course Description

Study issues of environmental, resource and sustainable economics using basic economic principles. Topics include: economics of renewable resources, full-cost accounting, natural capital and social capital, international environmental trade and regulation, and ecological economics. Explore how sustainability economics can be integrated in corporate financial analysis and inform decision-making at all levels. Recommended: 30 prior college credits.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the quarter, students will be able to:

- Present the key concepts and elements of sustainability economics and how it differs from “traditional” economic models
- Present the history and evolution of sustainability, green and ecological economics concepts
- Explain how industries and markets interact with the environment in term of economic impact
- Discuss policy and economic issues in terms of extracting, pricing and consuming resources, as well as disposing of waste
- Using case studies, select tools and develop and analyze metrics for ecological, business and social economic risks and benefits
- Apply sustainability economic concepts to evaluate various business and public policy strategies
- Using sound economic principles, develop a business case for integrating sustainability economics principles and metrics in corporate financial analysis
- Develop a proposal with supporting documentation to make a presentation to corporate managers and inform decision-making

Methods

We will use a combination of traditional lecture, seminar-style instruction, and experiential learning activities in order to achieve the objectives above. Students will complete numerous readings, as well as propose other related readings for their classmates using a Living Reading List (available to view and edit using google docs). Students will prepare for class by completing the readings and preparing a 1-2 sentence summary of the thesis of each reading, which should be emailed prior to the start of the class on Tuesday of each week (or printed and carried to class). Students should come ready to discuss the readings. There will be two exams during the quarter. One major component of the course involves examining and creating business cases for firms and/or governments to implement some of the concepts from sustainability economics. In addition, we will be reviewing at least one other piece of relevant literature.

Grading

Grades will be calculated according to the following weights:

Attendance and Participation	5%
Thesis Summaries	15%
Exams	20% x 2 = 40%

Case Study Analysis	10%
Original Business Case	20%
Book Review	10%

Attendance is expected! Attendance will be taken periodically throughout the quarter, and will make up part of your grade! If you arrive late and miss attendance, you will not receive the attendance points for that day!

The link to the College Grading Policy is located on page 10 of the Course Catalog and also on the web at: http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/3/3000_grading.asp.

Books and Materials Required

Each week we will have some required readings that everyone is expected to complete, and some options readings, from which you will complete at least one. The options will be proposed by you, your classmates, and your instructor in the Living Reading List outlined below.

The two required texts for the course are:

[“Green Economics: Confronting the Ecological Crisis”](#) by Robin Hahnel

[“Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution”](#) by Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, L. Hunter Lovins

In addition to these titles, please update the living list (available on google docs) to include links to articles, journals, videos, etc. that relate to the topic of the week. The more you add, the more complete a picture we will have as a class!

In addition you will read one supplemental book of your choosing (a few options listed below) and write an original review that could help others decide whether the book is worth reading and how economics can help one understand it. You are required to read and review one of the following:

- [“Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future”](#) by Bill McKibben
- [“Green to Gold: How Smart Companies Use Environmental Strategy to Innovate, Create Value, and Build Competitive Advantage”](#) by Daniel Esty and Andrew Winston
- [“Understanding Environmental Policy”](#) by Stephen Cohen
- [“The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability”](#) by James Speth
- [“Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature”](#) by Janine Benyus
- [“Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things”](#) by Michael Braungart
- [“The Great Disruption”](#) by Paul Gilding

You are also expected to submit your written work through an online program called turnitin.com.

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

Expectations

Students are expected to:

- help in creating a positive learning environment.
- come prepared to every class. (Prepared means arriving on time with all materials needed for class and having read the relevant sections and written a 1-2 sentence thesis summary.)
- keep cell phones silenced and use computers only for course-related work.
- inform me ahead of time if they can't attend a class, or if they have to leave early.
- know and meet the deadlines for all assignments and exams. *Please note that no make-up assignments or exams are offered!*

- come for extra help before small misunderstandings become major learning gaps.
- gain access to the internet. Students should maintain access and cope with any technology problems, including viruses, that involve your own machine or software.
- know BC's policies on withdrawing and other quarterly commitments
- complete their own work and be familiar with Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College, especially with respect to cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing.

Student Sustainability Guidelines: Students are expected to make decisions that have the smallest environmental impact while maximizing student learning. This includes:

- Think before printing documents for this class, print double sided, adjust the printable margins and reuse any paper as scratch paper.
- Turn in papers electronically (turnitin.com) or when necessary turn in printed assignments double sided, single spaced and using small margins of at least .75 inches.
- Turn off the lights in empty classrooms and do not study alone in classrooms or without permission.
- Recycle all paper, bottles and cans and compost food and materials from the cafeteria.
- Adjust the power settings on your personal computer so the monitor and CPU will sleep after 20 minutes of inactivity and unplug personal all electronic devices when not in use.

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Procedures and Guidelines of the Social Science Division

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC

Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

"If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process."

Information about Bellevue College's copyright guidelines can be found at:

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/links/copyright.html>

A good resource for Plagiarism is the Writing Lab: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html>

Student Code

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Important Links

Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>.

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#).

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Public Safety

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop

resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

Final Exam Schedule

The college-scheduled final exam time for this class is Thursday, 14th June, 2012 from 11:30am -1:20pm.
<http://bellevuecollege.edu/classes/exams>

Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

Course Calendar

Week 1 - What is sustainability? What does economics have to do with it? A history of the environmental economic movement
Week 2 - How do markets work? Supply and Demand
Week 3 - How do we make decisions? Cost-Benefit Analysis, Triple Bottom Line, and Business Case Analysis
Week 4 - When do markets fail? Externalities, Public Goods, Common Property Resources
Week 5 - How do we measure progress? Macroeconomics and Growth Policy & Midterm Exam
Week 6 - Is government up to the job? Government policy and market-based policy
Week 7 - Environmentalism, Equity, and Happiness
Week 8 - Natural Resource Markets (Energy and Food)
Week 9 - Natural Resource Markets (Water and Waste)
Week 10 - Where do we go from here? Global Environmental Policy
Week 11 - Final Exam