

# The political economy of natural resources in North America, Asia and Oceania (ECN 482)

Syllabus – Spring 2014 – January 6, 2014

## 1 Logistics

### 1.1 People

**Instructor:** David Zetland (dzetland@gmail.com; 778-387-2300)

**Office hours:** Tues 12:00-13:00 and ThuR 15:00-16:00 in WMC 1688

### 1.2 Class Times

Item	Day/Time	Location
Seminar	T 13:30-14:20	WMC 3515
Seminar	R 12:30-14:20 (10 min break)	WMC 3515
First Seminar	T 7 Jan	
Reading Break	T-Sa	11-15 Feb
Last Seminar	T 8 Apr	
Final	Oral, by appt prior to T 22 Apr	WMC 1688

### 1.3 Technology

- Canvas is set up with readings. **Discussion?**
- I suggest paper over laptops for notes and conversation.
- You may want to record your presentations, to review what people say and how you sound.

### 1.4 Assignments and grades

You will work on a discussion paper (“white paper”) for this class. Your grade will depend on progress, presentation, participation and insights.

**Presentation:** 20 percent

**Paper:** 20 percent

**Participation:** 20 percent

**Peer-evaluation:** 10 percent

**Oral final:** 30 percent

Notes:

- Assignments are due at the start of class.
- Drafts (bring two copies of each) will be peer-graded and returned in the next class. Peer grading will also be graded (in the “peer evaluation”)
- Final papers will be less than 15 double-spaced pages (approx 3,000 words), not including references, figures or tables (we’ll discuss format)
- The final exam of 15-20 min will cover your research topic *and extensions*.
- Your course grade will be based on your total points, *adjusted for Economics Department norms*, i.e., 0-40% As, 0-60% Bs

## 2 Recommended Reading

- Dolan, Ed (2012) *TANSTAAFL* (There Ain’t No Such Thing As A Free Lunch). Searching Finance Ltd. Dolan is more relevant to environment/ecology but natural resources affects the environment, so use backwards induction.
- \*Zetland, David (2013) “Economists owe ecology an apology” from *Green Growth and Water Allocation*, edited by S. Primot, M.R. van der Valk, and P. Keenan. IHP-UNESCO, Den Haag.
- \*Hazlitt, Henry (1946). *Economics in One Lesson*. Posted on SFU connect. A clear essay on visible winners, invisible losers and how short-term politics leads to bad economics.

- \*Hayek, F. A. (1945). “On the Use of Knowledge in Society” in *American Economic Review* (35): 519-530
- \*Gordon, H. S. (1954). “The economic theory of a common property resource: the fishery” in *The Journal of Political Economy* (62): 1241-1242
- \*Hardin, Garrett (1968) “The Tragedy of the Commons” in *Science* (162:3859): 1243-1248
- Olson, Mancur (1971) *The Logic of Collective Action* Harvard University Press
- Axelrod, R. (1984) *The Evolution of Cooperation* Basic Books
- \*Coase, R. H. (1960). “The Problem of Social Cost” in *Journal of Law and Economics* (3): 1-44
- \*Dietz, T.; Ostrom, E. & Stern, P. C. (2003) “The Struggle to Govern the Commons” in *Science* (302): 1907-1912

\* Posted on Canvas

### 3 Seminars

In this seminar, we will apply microeconomic theory to analysis of actions and policies affecting natural resources and the environment. Students will provide much of the “material” as they develop their analysis of a suitable topic.

Our discussions – and your research paper and presentation(s) – will focus more on realistic application than academic or theoretical issues.

After completing the course, students will have experience in policy analysis, some perspective on real world issues and perhaps an expertise on how to improve natural resource management.

#### 3.1 Detailed schedule – subject to change!

**7 Jan (T) S1 Getting started**

**9 Jan (R) S2 Resource and environmental economics**

**14 Jan (T) S3 Examples: Bakun Dam (forests, palm, biodiversity, carbon, energy)**

**16 Jan (R) S4 Discussion of topics**

**21 Jan (T) S5 Discussion of topics**

**23 Jan (R) S6 Topic discussions 1-4 (25 min each)**

**28 Jan (T) S7 Topic discussions 5-6**

**30 Jan (R) S8 Topic discussions 7-10**

**4 Feb (T) S9 Topic discussions 11-12**

**6 Feb (R) S10 Topic discussions 13-16**

**11-15 Feb Reading Break**

**18 Feb (T) S11 Research discussions**

**20 Feb (R) S12 Research discussions**

**25 Feb (T) Draft papers due – discussion**

**27 Feb (R) S13 Peer-grading of papers due – discussion**

**4 Mar (T) S14 Presentations/discussions 1-2 (15 + 10 min)**

**6 Mar (R) S15 Presentations/discussions 3-6**

**11 Mar (T) S16 Presentations/discussions 7-8**

**13 Mar (R) S17 Presentations/discussions 9-12**

**18 Mar (T) S18 Presentations/discussions 13-16**

**20 Mar (R) S19 From policy to action**

**25 Mar (T) S20 TBA**

**27 Mar (R) S21 TBA**

**1 Apr (T) S22 TBA**

**3 Apr (R) S23 Papers due**

**8 Apr (T) S24 Last class – feedback and party :)**