Course Syllabus: Fall 2014
ECON 4355 – Section 70 – Environmental Economics
Dr. Duane J. Rosa, Professor of Economics

Class Days/Times/Location or Other Format: Online
Office Location: CC 222G
Office Hours: T and TH 8:00 a.m. to 12:00; T 3:00 p.m. to 5:00
Office Phone: 806-651-2520
Email: drosa@mail.wtamu.edu

Social Media: Keep up with the latest happenings of your COB on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wtamucob and Twitter, #WTAMUCOB

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WTAMU College of Business Mission Statement

The mission of the College of Business is to provide high quality undergraduate and graduate business education with a global perspective and ethical awareness. We accomplish this through emphasis on excellence in teaching, which is strengthened by faculty scholarship and supported by professional service.

Learning Objectives of the WTAMU College of Business Programs

The College of Business (COB) at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) seeks to prepare students in the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Professional Accounting (MPA), and the Master of Science, Finance and Economics (MSFE) degree programs for careers in business and to foster their professional growth and advancement via key learning goals and objectives.

The learning objectives of the College of Business are as follows:

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• Leadership
• Communication
• Critical Thinking
• Business Integration
• Core Business Knowledge
• Global Business Environment
• Business Ethics and Corporate Governance

Course Description

The environment has attracted increasing attention both domestically and internationally as energy, food, water, air, and other resources have undergone a sequence of crises. There is increased concern today about national and world capacities for producing sufficient reproducible resource commodities, and concern over the implications of world and national dependence on finite stocks of nonrenewable resources. These issues of resource availability have been associated more and more with environmental problems such as exploitation and pollution. This course will focus primarily on the economic and management theories of environmental and natural resource issues. The course will also consider some of the ecological issues of resource depletion and conservation as well. Policy implications surrounding resource use (and overuse) and pollution will also be discussed.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

• Describe how economic concepts can be applied to environmental issues
• Analyze various approaches for measuring environmental costs and benefits
• Explain environmental and economic issues relating to air quality problems from stationary and mobile sources, as well as global air quality and climate change
• Explain environmental and economic issues relating to water quality and safe drinking water
• Explain environmental and economic issues relating to solid waste, toxic and hazardous substances
• Evaluate the ethical issues involved in balancing the impact of environmental degradation with economic development.

Course Materials (Text, calculator, etc.)

Map from COB Learning Objectives to Specific Course Objectives

Core Business Knowledge - Describe how economic concepts can be applied to environmental issues

Core Business Knowledge - Analyze various approaches for measuring environmental costs and benefits

Global Business Environment - Explain environmental and economic issues relating to air quality problems from stationary and mobile sources, as well as global air quality and climate change

Core Business Knowledge - Explain environmental and economic issues relating to water quality and safe drinking water

Core Business Knowledge - Explain environmental economic issues relating to solid waste, toxic and hazardous substances

Business Ethics and Corporate Governance - Evaluate the ethical issues involved in balancing the impact of environmental degradation with economic development.

Course Grading Policies

Exams (3 best exam scores out of 4 exams) 70%
Case Study Analyses (Sandy Pond – Chad/Cameroon) 30%
Total 100%

Grading Scale for this course: A = 90%; B = 80%; C = 70%; D = 60%

Course Assignment, Examination, and or Project Policies

Exams (70%):

Four exams will be given in the course with each exam covering the indicated chapters. You can select to drop your lowest of the four exam grades or not take one exam. Only three exams will be counted. The exams for this course will be administered online from the WTClass website. Each exam will consist of randomly selected multiple-choice and true-false questions. The exams will be posted on the WTClass website as follows: (Exam times - CDT)
Exam #1 - Thursday, September 18, 8:00 a.m. to Monday, September 22, 8:00 a.m.

Exam #2 - Thursday, October 16, 8:00 a.m. to Monday, October 20, 8:00 a.m.

Exam #3 - Thursday, November 6, 8:00 a.m. to Monday, November 10, 8:00 a.m.

Exam #4 - Friday, December 5, 8:00 a.m. to Wednesday, December 10, 8:00 a.m.

You will be given 90 minutes for each exam, and you can select any time frame within the dates/time listed above. **Once you start taking the exam, you cannot restart the exam at a later time. You will be shown one question at a time to answer and you can go back to previous questions. At the end of the 90 minute period, the exam is over and you will be automatically logged off.**

Please note that there will be no exceptions to this time frame for exams and quizzes. I will not accept excuses about you getting kicked off your internet connection or you failed to finish the exam within the allowable time frame. Make sure your computer connection is stable prior to starting the exam or quiz.

**Makeup Exams:**

There will be **NO makeup exams given in this course (for any reason).** If you miss one of the scheduled exams in the course, it will count as your dropped exam. Missing more than one of the scheduled exams will necessitate dropping the course. The last date to drop a course in the fall 2014 semester is October 31, 2014.

**Harvard Business School Case Studies (30%)**

You will be given **two** Harvard Business School Case Studies to evaluate and prepare a detailed written analysis. I have posted on WTClass under Lessons a set of guidelines for each case study. The first case study deals with environmental ethics and focuses on a nickel refinery in Long Harbour, Newfoundland and Labrador and the disposal of tailings in a natural lake (Sandy Pond). The second case study focuses on the Exxon-Mobil development of a pipeline in Chad/Cameroon. **Each case studies count 15% of your grade.** The first case study analysis is due **October 6, 2014** and the second is due **December 1, 2014.**
### Course Topics - Tentative Calendar of Readings, Topics, and Due Dates

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<td>1 – 2</td>
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<td>9/1</td>
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<td>9/18 to 9/22</td>
<td>Exam #1 (Chapters 1,2,3,4,5)</td>
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<td>9/22</td>
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<td>10/6</td>
<td>Case Study Due – Sandy Pond</td>
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<td>8 – 9</td>
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<td>10/13</td>
<td>10 – 11</td>
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<td>10/16 to 10/20</td>
<td>Exam #2 (Chapters 6,7,8,9)</td>
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<td>Case Study Due – Chad/Cameroon</td>
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<td>12/1</td>
<td>17 – 18</td>
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<td>12/5 to 12/10</td>
<td>Exam #4 (Chapters 14,15,16,17,18)</td>
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### Additional Course Policies

I use the Announcement Page of WTClass to give you updated information about the course, including upcoming homework assignments and exams dates. I have a section to the WTClass page titled **Course RSS Feeds**. This site has market current information from CNN Money and other business/economic related sources.

### WTAMU COB Student Code of Ethics

Each student enrolled in COB courses accepts personal responsibility to uphold and defend academic integrity and to promote an atmosphere in which all individuals may flourish. The COB Student Code of Ethics strives to set a standard of honest behavior that reflects well on students, the COB and West Texas A&M University. All students enrolled in business courses are expected to follow the explicit behaviors detailed in the Student Code of Ethics.

### Code of Ethics
• Do not use notes, texts, solution manuals, or other aids for a quiz or exam without instructor authorization.
• Do not copy the work of others and/or allow others to view your answers or copy your work during a quiz, exam, or on homework assignments.
• Do not allow other parties to assist in the completion of your quiz, exam, homework, paper, or project when not permitted.
• Do not work with other students on projects or assignments without authorization from the course instructor.
• Properly cite and specifically credit the source of text, graphic, and web materials in papers, projects, or other assignments.
• Do not forge the signature of an instructor, advisor, dean, or another student.
• Provide truthful information for class absences when asking faculty for excused absences or for a make-up for a quiz, exam, or homework.
• Provide truthful information on your resume including work history, academic performance, leadership activities, and membership in student organizations.
• Respect the property, personal rights, and learning environment of all members of the academic community.
• Live up to the highest ethical standards in all academic and professional endeavors.

Students violating the Student Code of Ethics will be reported to the Dean’s office and are subject to penalties described in the West Texas A&M University Code of Student Life, which may include suspension from the University. In addition, a violator of the Student Code of Ethics may become ineligible for participation in student organizations sponsored by the COB and for recognition for College academic honors, awards, and scholarships.

COB Student Resources Link

The COB has developed a Student Resources repository (e.g., APA writing style information, business core reviews, facilities, and other helpful supplements), which can be found on the COB Website: http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/college-business-facilities-and-resources.aspx. Additionally, WTAMU has developed an Academic Study Skills information site to assist students (e.g., study habits, supplemental instruction, tutoring, writing and math skills), which can be found on the WTAMU Website: http://www.wtamu.edu/student-support/academic-study-skills.aspx. For WTAMU Writing Center information (for students needing writing assistance, guidance, and feedback), please visit: http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/writing-center.aspx.

COB Communications Component

Students earning a BBA degree must complete at least one course with a communications component as part of the business core requirements. The COB communications component is a requirement in the following courses: ACCT 4373 (Accounting Communications), BUSI 4333 (Cross-Cultural Issues in Business Communications), BUSI 4350 (Current Issues in Management Communications), BUSI 4380 (Conflict Resolution and Negotiation), BUSI 4382 (Emerging Media Law), CIDM 3320 (Digital Collaboration and Communication), ECON 4370 (Economics of Health Care), FIN 3350 (Personal Financial Planning), FIN 4320 (Investments), FIN 4321 (Portfolio Theory), MGT 3335 (Organizational Behavior), MGT 4380 (Conflict Resolution and Negotiation), and MKT 3342 (Consumer Behavior).

Students in a communications component course are explicitly required to demonstrate knowledge of communication skills. Specific objectives may include but are not limited to the following concepts put
forth by the National Business Education Association: (1) ability to organize a written and an oral message coherently and effectively, (2) ability to use technology for communication, (3) ability to research a topic, prepare a report, and present the findings to all organizational levels, and (4) ability to demonstrate critical-thinking skills. Specific course requirements and the role of the communications component with respect to student grading policy are at the discretion of the course instructor of record.

**Student Travel Opportunities**

In multiple business courses, there may be opportunities for student travel supplemented by student fees. If you have an interest in such opportunities as they become available, please notify a faculty member.

**Dropping/Repeating the Course**

Should a student decide to drop the course, it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the final drop dates and adhere to the WTAMU Add/Drop policy. Any student participating in the course after the WTAMU posted drop date will be considered active and a grade will be administered at the end of the course for that student. Students are charged a fee for any course attempted for a third or subsequent time at WTAMU other than a non-degree credit developmental course or exempted courses.

**Scholastic Dishonesty**

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the examination is given in subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism; submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so; submission of a paper or project prepared by another student as your own. You are responsible for being familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Code, as well as the COB Student Code of Ethics listed in this document.

**Viewpoints/External Websites Disclaimer**

The views expressed in this document, web-based course materials, and/or classroom presentations and discussions are those of the professor and do not necessarily represent the views of West Texas A&M University, its faculty and staff, or its students. Views expressed by students are likewise those of the person making such statements. It is understood and expected that each individual within this course will respect and allow individual difference of opinion.

Neither the professor, the COB, nor WTAMU are responsible for the content of external websites discussed in the classroom and/or linked to via online course materials, emails, message boards, or other means. Referred websites are for illustrative purposes only, and are neither warranted nor endorsed by the professor, COB, or WTAMU. Web pages change frequently, as does domain name ownership. While every effort is made to ensure proper referencing, it is possible that students may on occasion find materials to be objectionable for reasons beyond our control.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (Code of Student Life). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action or referral to the University’s Behavioral Intervention Team. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Technology Requirements

All technological requirements for the successful completion of this course are the responsibility of the student, including access to a working computer and or to a device with secure broadband Internet connection, data storage and retrieval, and state-of-the-art security. The student is responsible for all technological problems not related to WTAMU, including but not limited to equipment failures, power outages, and Internet breakdowns. Furthermore, students are responsible for all necessary technical and operational skills for completing this course, and for being familiar with WTClass (the Angel Learning System) both in a general sense and in a specific sense as pertaining to this course and any materials stored within. The professor is not responsible for any technical matters related to WTClass. Students must contact WTClass if they have problems accessing and/or using the WTClass environment.

Physical or Educational Access - ADA Statement

West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) and to contact faculty members in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. Contact Information: Student Success Center, CC 106; www.wtamu.edu/disability; phone 806-651-2335.

Evacuation Statement

If you receive notice to evacuate the building, please evacuate promptly but in an orderly manner. Evacuation routes are posted in various locations indicating all exits, outside assemble area, location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations and emergency telephone numbers (651.5000 or 911). In the event an evacuation is necessary: evacuate immediately do not use elevators; take all personal belongings with you; report to outside assembly area and wait for further information; students needing assistance in the evacuation process should bring this to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of the semester. to request additional information, please contact the Vice President for Student Affairs.

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* Syllabus template approved by COB Curriculum Committee May 2014. Annual review of the syllabus is a formal part of the COB continuous improvement process.

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