

# Syllabus for SMGT 235 Economics in Society and Sustainability

**NOTE:** This syllabus document contains the basic information about this course. The most current syllabus is available in the course.

## Course Description

This is a general introductory course highlighting economic, social, and environmental issues facing society. In addition to covering traditional issues such as markets and prices (microeconomics), government economic management (macroeconomics), and international trade, it also introduces economic content into the analysis of selected topics such as poverty and discrimination, the environment, and the provision of government services. Critiques of conventional economic thought, within the context of systems thinking and ecological economics, are integrated throughout the course.

## Prerequisite(s)

College Math

## Course Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Differentiate between conventional and ecological economics; identify the analytical tools and concepts to apply in the analysis of contemporary sustainability questions and issues and illustrate why they are the relevant tools of choice.
- Outline the characteristics and illustrate the importance of systems thinking; examine contemporary economic, social, and environmental issues within this analytical context.
- Apply ecological economic tools and concepts in a problem-solving process that includes these steps:
  - Building the problem base: choosing, defining, and structuring the problem
  - Analysis: breaking down the problem and evaluating the objectives
  - Synthesis: bringing it all together
  - Communication: final communication, peer review, and identification of next steps

- Outline the basic characteristics of microeconomics, market analysis, and market failure and its implications; apply this understanding in terms of market policy implications and options.
- Outline the basic characteristics of macroeconomics, international trade, and policy design principles; apply the concepts of sustainable scale, just distribution, and efficient allocation within the context of environmental and economic policies.

### Course Requirements/Components

**Quizzes:** There will be 7 graded quizzes. The questions model the types of questions you can expect to see in the multiple-choice sections of the three exams.

**Writing Assignments:** There are 5 writing assignments. The assignments will model, to some extent, the types of essay questions that you will experience in the three exams. They will tend to focus on the material in and questions raised by the Daly and Farley text. They will also take advantage, when possible, of short media pieces on contemporary issues that get at the fundamental issues surrounding economics and sustainability.

**Discussions:** There are 3 discussion assignments, each with a similar format.

**Exams:** There are 3 examinations in the course.

**Issue Paper:** Students are also responsible for a substantive issue paper that demonstrates their ability to analyze a question or issue of interest within the broad topical area of economics and sustainability. In this paper, students are expected to clearly explain the implications of what they have found and learned.

**Group Assignment:** Finally, the course includes a group assignment, consisting of several parts. Students will work with a small group of peers and develop a lesson for the course that explores a relevant topic of interest to you, your group, and the class as a whole.

### Netiquette

You are expected to follow the rules of common courtesy with all online and social communications. Be careful of the tone and content of online communication. Without facial expressions and voice inflections, misunderstandings can occur and comments can be interpreted as inappropriate or offensive. Unacceptable online conduct includes, but is not limited to, postings that are racist, derogatory, inflammatory, condescending, rude or in any way offensive. Persistent abuse of online etiquette may result in disciplinary action.

## Grading Policy

7 Quizzes (top 5 of 7 scores)	15%
5 Writing Assignments	20%
3 Discussion Assignments	10%
3 Exams	30%
Issue Paper Assignment	15%
Group Assignment	10%
Total	100%

The corresponding letter grades are as follows:

92.5 to 100.0 = A	90.0 to 92.49 = A-	
87.5 to 89.9 = B+	82.5 to 87.49 = B	80.0 to 82.49 = B-
77.5 to 79.9 = C+	72.5 to 77.49 = C	70.0 to 72.49 = C-
67.5 to 69.9 = D+	62.5 to 67.49 = D	60.0 to 62.49 = D-
Below 60.0 = F		

Your final grade for the course will be a weighted average in accordance with the course breakdown shown above.