RTU Course "Environmental policy and economics"

11509 Vides aizsardzības un siltuma sistēmu katedra

General data

Code	EAS722
Course title	Environmental policy and economics
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Course level	Post-graduate Studies
Course type	Academic
Field of study	Environmental Engineering and Management
Responsible instructor	Andra Blumberga
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 5.0 Credit Points, 7.5 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN, RU
Possibility of distance learning	Not planned
Maximum auditorium capacity	50
Maximum number of students per semester	50
Abstract	The environmental policy and economics course is an analysis of how environmental awareness has evolved historically based on the ethical principles and moral values present in society, as well as on the development of science, structure of society, environmental psychology, the structure of economic and political systems and their impact on the development of environmental policy. The course has a comparative analysis of the development of environmental legislation in Latvia, the EU and elsewhere and looks at methods for evaluating and calculating losses to the environment by using direct and indirect valuation methods. The course is conducted through lectures, seminars and role plays.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	To acquire knowledge on the basic principles on the development of environmental policy and economics, as well as environmental legislation. To gain practical skills in evaluating and calculating loss to the environment through the application of economic instruments and the requirements set in normative acts.
Structure and tasks of independent studies	The practical work in the course contains two parts: 1)role plays are based on exploring the agreement process in situations when environmental issues need to be addressed, but which represent various interests that complicate the possibility of agreement. Each role play is played during one lecture. 1)practical work which is applies the policy instruments. Results are presented by students during seminars that are part of lectures.
Recommended literature	1.R.Kerry Turner, David Pearce and Ian Bateman,"Environmental Economics", 1994. 2.Gareth Porter, Janet Welsh Brown, Pamela S. Chasek "Global Environmental Politics", Third Edition, 2000. 3. Sharon Beder, "Global Spin, The Corporate Assault on Environmentalism", 2002. 4.James Connelly, Graham Smith "Politics and the Environment: From the Theory to Practice", 1999. 5.R.Kerry Turner, David Pearce, Ian Bateman "Environmenatl Economics: An Elementary Introduction", 1994. 6."Economics, Ethics, and Environmental Policy, Conteted Choises", Blackwell Publishing, 2002. 7."Rinočnije metodi upravļeņija okružajušei sredoj", Maskava, 2002 (krievu valodā). 8.Andrew Dobson "Green Political Thought", Third Edition, 2000. 9.Carolyn Merchant "Radical Ecology: The Search for a Livable World", 1992. 10.D.Meadows, J.Randers, D. Meadows „Limits to Growth. The 30-year update", 2004. 11.G.T.Gardner, P.C.Stern "Environmental Problems and Human Behaviour", 2002. 12.Joy E.Hecht, National Environmental Accounting, 2005 13. Peter Mulder, The Economics of Technology Diffusion and Energy Efficiency, 2005 14.Economic Valuation with Stated Preference Techniques, A Manual, 2002 15. N.Hanley, Jason F. Shorger, B. White, Introduction Environmental Economics, 2001 16.G. Garrod, K.G. Willis, Economic Valuation of the Environment, 1999 17.M.Šenfelde, V.Ņikitina, I.Kullesa "Makroekonomika", "Kamene", Rīga, 2002. 18.V.Nešpors, I.Ruperte, J.Saulītis "Mikroekonomika", "Kamene", 2002. 19."Ekonomikas pamatjēdzienu mācīšanas struktūra", Rīga, 2000. 20.Ērika Šumilo, Tatjana Subbotina "Pasaule un Latvija: Ilgtspējīgas attīstības aspekti", 2002. 21.Matiss Vakerneidžels, Viljams Rīss "Mūsu ekoloģiskās pēdas nospiedums", VARAM, 2000. 22. Maija Kūle, Rihards Kūlis "Filosofija", Rīga, 1998.
Course prerequisites	none

Course outline

Theme	Hours
Introduction	4
Environmental philosophy	4
Science and the environment. Green ideology	4
Collective action, power and decision-making.	4
Environmental movement	4

Environmental economics. Environmental evaluation.	4
Methods for environmental economic control and regulation.	4
Direct environmental valuation methods	8
Indirect environmental valuation methods	8
International environmental policy.	4
Environmental policy in the EU	4
Environmental politics in Latvia.	4
Energy efficiency policy.	4
Practical work (seminars)	12
Role plays	8

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
To be able to define and analyse different ethical principles and moral values of various players and their impact on environmental policy processes.	Examination: role play, exam, course work. Assessment criteria: Able to identify basic principles in environmental policy development.
To be able to identify, understand and analyse environmental policy mechanisms and instruments on the national and international levels.	Examination: role play, exam, course work. Assessment criteria: Able to identify basic principles in environmental policy development.
To be able to develop and apply environmental policy instruments and environmental economic instruments.	Examination: exam, course work. Assessment criteria: Able to develop , analyse and use different environmental policy instruments and environmental economics insturments.
To be able to identify political and socio-economic motivating factors in environmental policy development on the global, regional (EU) and national (Latvia) level.	Examination: role play, exam, course work. Assessment criteria: Able to develop and argue the course of any given environmental policy.

Study subject structure

Part	CP	ECTS	Hours per Week			Tests		
			Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	5.0	7.5	2.0	3.0	0.0		*	