



**SYLLABUS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND POLICIES;  
AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

**Dr Carolina Valiente (cvlifs@yahoo.com)**

**Contact Hours: 40**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**LONDON, ENGLAND**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is to increase awareness and understanding of the environmental issues affecting the world. The course focuses on self-awareness for leading, persuading, and working with others; effective business writing and speaking; and team development.

The course introduces key concepts in climate change economics and some more advanced topics that address emerging issues in the climate change literature. The course emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of climate change and presents the role of economics in addressing climate change.

The course will begin with the link between economic growth and climate change and discuss climate change as a negative externality. Some strategies to address climate change are examined. Finally, complex topics such as climate change and the role of international climate change agreements will be considered.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

***Knowledge and Understanding:***

- Increase self-awareness of the current trends affecting the environment
- Recognizing basic concepts and relationships in economics that related and support the analysis on the environment

- Develop awareness about how governments, the private sector and individuals can effectively lead and work with others in the pursue of environmentally friendly business and consumption activities
- Build a persuasive story around a core learnings and the use of these learnings in adopting a clear environmental concern which could be followed by further academic study
- Improve researching and teamwork skills regarding environmental issues

**Communication Skills:**

- Improve the student's ability to communicate with others through writing, teamwork, interpersonal and intercultural relations, for the period of the lessons and during the selected visits.

*Upon completion of this course you will be able to:*

- Understand the core elements of Environmental Economics
- Appreciate the concern about different environmental problems
- Get some knowledge on governmental policies on the environment and the problems with its application
- Work with a selection of International Agreements on the preservation of the environment
- Build a persuasive story around a core learnings and the use of these learnings in adopting a clear environmental concern which could be followed by further academic study
- Improve the student's professional behaviours (initiative, responsibility, and accountability)

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY**

The sessions combine introductory lectures, student presentations, discussions and group work as well as the use of videos, articles and visits. Students will be expected to actively prepare for all classes. The classes are highly participative.

**COURSE READING**

Reading materials will be selected and distributed for each session. The following textbook is also useful for the course:

Anderson, David (2019). **Environmental Economics and Natural Resource Management**, Fifth Edition. Routledge. US.

Students can also use the Fourth edition of the book (Note: there are paperbacks and Kindle edition available on Amazon for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> edition).

Supplementary readings, videos and questionnaires will also be used during the sessions. These may include:

- The Economist

- The Financial Times
- The Wall Street Journal
- Bloomberg BusinessWeek
- You Tube

Other readings, videos and resources may be used and recommended during the term. Please, check with your Lecturer for recommendations every week.

### **METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)**

The course grade is based on class participation, a Carbon Footprint Report, written Reflections, a written Quiz, an Individual/Group Presentation, and a comprehensive written Final Exam. The Final grade will be computed as follows:

#### **Deliverables:**

• Case Study: My personal Carbon Footprint (part 1 and part 2* 10% each)	20%
• Quiz (Week 5: 1 x 20%)	20%
• Reflections on Learnings (Week 3, 4, 6,7= 4 Reflections*5% each)	20%
• Presentation (Individual or in groups): International Agreements on Climate Change and the Environment	20%
• Final Exam	20%
<b>Total Individual Work</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Please, notice that all the sessions are fully interactive and include individual and group work, discussion and peer feedback.**

#### **Week 1**

- Course introduction: What is the problem?

#### **Learning objectives:**

- The importance of the environment for humanity and the world
- What are the different factors affecting the environment? Why is the environment deteriorating so fast?

#### **Readings:**

- Readings and videos to be confirmed

#### **Assignments:**

- Work on data for Personal Carbon Footprint Report. Part 1. Personal reflection: Am I generating a significant Carbon Footprint? Analysis (Written Assignment Part 1)
- Work on Personal Carbon Footprint Report: My action plan to improve it (Written Assignment Part 2)

#### **Week 2 and Week 3**

- Economics and the environment

**Learning objectives:**

- Identifying main economic concepts and relationships between human action, businesses, governments and environmental impact
- What are the differences between private efficiency and social efficiency/impact?
- Dealing with market failure
- Introducing Private and Government solutions
- Trade-offs and the cost of economic growth

**Readings:**

- Readings and videos to be confirmed
- Environmental Economics and Natural Resource Management

**Assignments:**

- Work on data for Personal Carbon Footprint Report. Am I generating a significant Carbon Footprint?
- Work on Personal Reflection 1: What are the most important environmental problems in my neighborhood/town? What are their causes? Who is responsible?

**Deliverables:**

- **Submission Week 2:** Individual Deliverables: My personal Carbon Footprint. Analysis (Written Assignment Part 1), and Action Plan to improve it (Written Assignment Part 2). 20% of final mark
- **Submission Week 3:** Individual Deliverables: Personal Reflection 1 (on Learnings from Week 1 and 2)

**Week 4 and 5**

- Different types of pollution

**Learning objectives:**

- The meaning of Environmental quality
- The energy problem
- What “Sustainability” really means

**Readings:**

- Environmental Economics and Natural Resource Management
- Readings and videos to be confirmed

**Assignments:**

- Work on your Personal Reflection 2 on weekly learnings

**Deliverables:**

- **Submission (week 4):** Individual Deliverables: Personal Reflection 2 (on Learnings from Week 4)
- **Quiz (week 5).** Individual Deliverables. Content from Weeks 1 to 4 (20% of final mark)

**Week 6**

- Additional Issues related to the environment

**Learning objectives:**

- The relationship between the environment and population, poverty and inequality
- Biodiversity
- International and global issues

- Perspectives on Environmental Policies

**Readings:**

- Readings and videos to be confirmed
- Environmental Economics and Natural Resource Management

**Assignments:**

- Work on your Personal Reflection on weekly learnings

**Deliverables:**

- **Submission (week 6):** Individual Deliverables: Personal Reflection 3 (on Learnings from Week 6)

**Week 7**

- Managing the environment

**Learning objectives:**

- Renewables and other strategies to manage the natural resources
- The difference between Depletable and Replenishable resources
- Being critical and solving disputes regarding the environment

**Readings:**

- Readings and videos to be confirmed
- Environmental Economics and Natural Resource Management

**Assignments:**

- Work on your Personal Reflection on weekly learnings
- Starting Individual/Group Research on International Agreements on Climate Change and the Environment (Focus: Participants, rationale, cons and what has happened since then) (This assignment will carry 20% of the final mark for the course)

**Deliverables:**

- **Submission (week 7):** Individual Deliverables: Personal Reflection 3 (on Learnings from Week 7)

**Week 8 and Week 9:**

- International Agreements on Climate Change and the Environment. An overview.

**Learning objectives:**

- Critical revision of selected International Agreements on Climate Change and the Environment (Participants, rationale, cons and what has happened since then)
- Critical comparison

**Readings:**

- Readings and videos to be confirmed

**Assignments:**

- Complete research (Week 8) and get Presentation ready (Week 9): Individual/Group Research on International Agreements on Climate Change and the Environment (Focus on: Participants, rationale, cons and what has happened since then)

**Deliverables:**

- **Presentation (Week 9):** Individual/Group Research on International Agreements on Climate Change and the Environment (Remember: It must specify clearly their participants, rationale, cons and what has happened since then) (20% of the final mark for the course)

**Week 10:**

- Individual Deliverables: **Final Exam** (20% of final mark)

**Overview of the Study and Assessment Plan**

Week	Content	Deliverables	Co-Curricular
1	What is the Problem?		
2	Economics and the environment	Submission Week 2: Individual Deliverables: <b>My personal Carbon Footprint</b> . Analysis (Written Assignment Part 1), and action plan to improve it (Written Assignment Part 2). 20% of final mark	
3	Economics and the environment	Submission Week 3: Individual Deliverables: <b>Personal Reflection 1</b> (on Learnings from Week 1 and 2)	
4	Different types of pollution	Submission (week 4): Individual Deliverables: <b>Personal Reflection 2</b> (on Learnings from Week 4)	
5	Different types of pollution	<b>Quiz</b> (week 5). Individual Deliverables. Content from Weeks 1 to 4 (20% of final mark)	
6	Additional issues related to the environment	Submission (week 6): Individual Deliverables: <b>Personal Reflection 3</b> (on Learnings from Week 6)	
7	Managing the environment	Submission (Week 7): Individual Deliverables: <b>Personal Reflection 4</b> (on Learnings from Week 7)	
8	International Agreements on Climate Change and the Environment		
9	International Agreements on Climate Change and the Environment	<b>Presentation</b> (Week 9): Individual/Group Research on International Agreements on Climate Change and the Environment (Participants, rationale, cons and what has happened since then) (20% of the final mark for the course)	
10		Individual Deliverables: <b>Final Exam</b> (20% of final mark)	

**CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (To be confirmed)**

- Thames Barrier
- Recycling Centre and or Plastic pollution

All visits are obligatory attendance. Specific instructions and directions will be issued before each event.

## **PROFESSIONALISM**

GEO is interested not only in increasing your technical expertise in business. We want to help you become professionals.

Think of “professionalism” as a collection of behaviours that your boss would expect from you in a job. In any job, positive attitude, respect for others, initiative, and responsibility are vital. This course will have the same expectations.

Students will be graded on active participation in class, and professional conduct in the course, including your oral and body language in class and your email communications, and also attendance and prompt arrival to lessons. If you are ever unclear as to what would be the professional thing to do in a given situation, please ask. Saying “I didn’t know that was unprofessional” is not a valid excuse.

Computer use and phone use (outside the research and specific note-taking time) in class distracts other students and the lecturer. Unless indicated otherwise, please do not use laptops/tablets or phones during lessons.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Every class and excursion (whether on- or off-site) must be attended. Absence will only be accepted on grounds of sickness. Sickness must be notified in advance in person (by phone, note or email) either to Amanda or Mary. Any absence not for sickness, for example for travel purposes, will affect your grade. See your programme’s attendance policy for more details.

## **GRADES**

Final grades will be decided as follows (final scores will not be rounded):

A	93.00-100%
A-	90.00-92.99%
B+	87.00-89.99%
B	83.00-86.99%
B-	80.00-82.99%
C+	77.00-79.99%
C	73.00-76.99%
C-	70.00-72.99%
D+	67.00-69.99%
D	63.00-66.99%
D-	60.00-62.99%
F	<60.00%

## INFORMATION ON ASSESSMENTS

### Personal Carbon Footprint Report

The students will execute a Carbon Footprint measurement activity, a critical evaluation of the data produced and complete an Action Plan to enhance their personal footprint during the next 6 months.

The Report is an individual assignment (Please, go to Carbon Footprint (n.d.) Carbon Calculator. Online at: <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx> [Accessed 19/08/20]. The Report will be directly relevant to the topics discussed in class and will require the students to apply the concepts they have learnt in class. The essay is required to be 1,000 words +/-10%. See Appendix A.

- ▶ **Send via email to: [cvlifs@yahoo.com](mailto:cvlifs@yahoo.com) no later than the specified deadline at 10pm**

### Personal Reflections on Weekly Learning

The students will submit every Sunday evening, a critical evaluation of their individual learning during the week lessons and visits relevant to the Course.

The Reflections are an individual assignment. These weekly Reflections will be directly connected to the topics discussed in class and during the visits and will require the students to apply the concepts they have learnt in class. The Weekly Reports are required to be maximum 700 words +/-10%. See Appendix B.

- ▶ **Send via email to: [cvlifs@yahoo.com](mailto:cvlifs@yahoo.com) no later than the specified deadline at 10pm**

### Quiz

There will be one quiz containing multiple choice, true-false, complete questions, and which will be given at the beginning of the lesson (Week 5). This is based on the reading, videos and discussions from week 1 to week 4. The purpose of this assessment is to provide an extra incentive to work continuously on the class material and understand the ideas discussed in class. The quiz will be straightforward for students who have done the reading and taken part in the discussions. If the quiz is carried out on paper, students must bring pens to the class to take the quiz.

The quiz will consist of 20 questions. Each question counts for 1 point/mark (20% total of final grade).

### Presentations

The presentations will be carried out individually/in groups (to be decided depending on student numbers) on Week 9.

The presentations may be of about 10-15 minutes long each (to be confirmed) and will be part of the normal class routine. The students will choose one International Agreement, carry out their own research and reading, and will have to complement their topic with relevant official and analyst's material. It must specify clearly their participants, rationale, cons and what has happened since then. The emphasis is on making a critical analysis about the selected Agreement, and communicating it clearly.

- ▶ A copy of the Presentation must be **sent via email to: [cvlifs@yahoo.com](mailto:cvlifs@yahoo.com) no later than 24 hours before the time of the presentation.**



**Useful links for Referencing:**

- UK Essays (n.d.) Harvard Referencing Guide, Available on-line at: <https://www.ukessays.com/referencing/harvard/> [Accessed 28/02/19]
- Anglia Ruskin University (n.d.) Harvard System. Available on line at: <https://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm> [Accessed 28/02/19]

**Exam**

The final exam will be administered during class time on the final day of the course as indicated on the course calendar. During the exam, students may have out pencils, pens, erasers, a ruler or straight edge. The content of the final exam is CUMULATIVE (Week 1 to Week 9, including the International Agreements discussed during the class).

Any device that could possibly be connected to the Internet is prohibited (i.e. cell phones, tablet devices, laptops, etc.) unless otherwise instructed by the lecturer.

The exam is intended to test higher levels of learning than the quiz. The exam primarily test students' ability to apply terms and concepts to analyze and evaluate problems related to climate change and environmental economics. The exam questions (multiple-choice, true-false, complete and essay-type) will be drawn from in-class activities, lecture slides and required reading.

**Extra Credits**

Students can earn up to 5 extra credits for consistent, well informed and relevant class participation. 5 extra credits will be awarded for excellent class participation throughout term.

**APPENDICES**

- A Carbon Footprint Exercise Assignment**
- B Personal Reflections- guidelines**
- C Marking Scheme for Individual/Group Presentation**

## APPENDIX A

### Carbon Footprint Written Assignment

Due on Week 2

Submission: Individual Deliverable: My personal Carbon Footprint. Data, Analysis (10 % of final mark) and Action Plan (10 % of final mark) to improve it. (Total: 20% of final mark)

This assignment should be divided into two parts (total 1,000 words +/-10%.):

Part 1) A Carbon Footprint Calculation. This assignment asks students to work out their annual carbon footprint. Students are encouraged to be honest in their estimation. The estimation should start from 2021 to 2021. There are several websites that guide you through this process, including:

<http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx> (recommended) and  
<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/calculators/>

Each student would submit a word or excel file stating the details/data compiled as to how they have worked out their footprint.

The data must be fully analysed by focusing in most/less significant activities causing the footprint.

Part 2) Reducing your footprint.

Based on the previous results, each student should come up with a clear strategy as to how you plan to reduce your own carbon footprint in the next six months.

The following links provide some good ideas to start and refine your thinking regarding your personal strategies for reducing your carbon footprint:

1. Carbon offsets to alleviate poverty (n.d.) Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint. On-line at: <https://cotap.org/reduce-carbon-footprint/> [Accessed 19/08/20]
2. University of California Television (UCTV) (13/09/12). What's Your Carbon Footprint? - Earth 101. On-line at:  
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=how+to+improve+your+carbon+footprint&qvt=how+to+improve+your+carbon+footprint&view=detail&mid=D9BD398DFA295DE7F379D9BD398DFA295DE7F379&&FORM=VDRVRV> [Accessed 18/08/20]

To be submitted on a WORD format by email to [cvlifs@yahoo.com](mailto:cvlifs@yahoo.com) no later than the specified deadline.

#### REMEMBER:

- ▶ The Report should include the following parts:
  - Top of the Page (Name of the Student and the name of the Report highlighted in red)
  - Introduction (one paragraph explaining why this topic is relevant/important)

- Methodology (one paragraph offering an overview of the sources used for developing the carbon footprint measurement, including videos and articles, dates covered, etc.)
- Literature Review (one or two paragraphs explaining listing the relevant/important definitions, theories, principles, etc., which helped you to understand the theory behind the topic)
- Critical Discussion. The separate answers to Part 1 and Part 2 of the Report. Part 1 comprises the core of what it has been found, the most important learnings from the different sources and opinions from the sessions during the period of the measurements, followed by Part 2: Action Plan, how specifically and realistically you can improve your Carbon Footprint during the next 6 months
- Conclusion (one paragraph explaining why this topic and what you have learnt is relevant/important as a model for your future life, development and career)
- List of References (in alphabetical order)

[Useful links for Referencing:](#)

- UK Essays (n.d.) Harvard Referencing Guide, Available online at: <https://www.ukessays.com/referencing/harvard/> [Accessed 18/08/20]
- Anglia Ruskin University (n.d.) Harvard System. Available online at: <https://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm> [Accessed 18/08/20]

## APPENDIX B

### Personal Reflections- guidelines

Due on Sunday, of every indicated week

The students will submit every Sunday evening, a critical evaluation of the learning during the corresponding week lessons and visits taking place during the Course.

The Reflections are an individual written assignment. These weekly Reflections will be directly connected to the topics discussed in class and during the visits and will require the students to apply the concepts they have learnt in class. The Weekly Reports are required to be maximum 700 words +/-10%.

REMEMBER:

The Reflections should include the following parts:

- Top of the Page (Name of the Student and Reflection Week highlighted in red)
  - Introduction (one paragraph explaining what was read, discussed, watched and visits taken place during the week)
  - Reflection: This comprises the core of what has been learnt, the most important points from the different sources and opinions from the sessions during the week)
  - Action Plan (how specifically you can use your learning during the course and in the future)
  - Conclusion (one paragraph explaining why this topic and what you have learnt is relevant/ important as a model for your future life, development and career)
  - References (list of any relevant sources of information which are important in your Reflections above) (NOTICE: References are NOT included in your word count) See Harvard Referencing standards.
- **Send via email to: [cvlifs@yahoo.com](mailto:cvlifs@yahoo.com) no later than the specified deadline at 10pm**

## APPENDIX C

### Marking Scheme for Individual/Group Presentation

Due on Week 9 (20% of final grade)

1) **Structure of the Presentation** \_\_\_\_\_ **out of 3%**

2) **Content:** \_\_\_\_\_ **out of 11%**

5 %

- 2.1) Evidence of research.
- 2.2) Relevance and quality of issues/data used.
- 2.3) General overview of the selected Agreement, its objectives, its operational structure and intended impact

6 %

- 2.4) Critical analysis of the selected Agreement, main criticisms, it's actual impact on the selected target(s) over the following years. Any other relevant issues arising from its success/failure
- 2.5) The unintended consequences of the Agreement on environmental
- 2.6) Meaningful overall evaluation of the Agreement: effectiveness/ achievements

3) **Impact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **out of 3%**

- 3.1) Use of PowerPoint /OHTs
- 3.2) Handouts/supplementary material
- 3.3) Clarity/ pace of delivery
- 3.4) "Executive style" of presentation.
- 3.5) Time management.

4) **Others:** \_\_\_\_\_ **out of 3%**

- 4.1) Creativity
- 4.2) Answers to questions and dynamic of the discussion.

**TOTAL MARKS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **out of 20%** **Equivalent US grade:** \_\_\_\_\_