

Module 40418 Foundations of Ecological Economics

Coordinator: Giuseppe Munda

Lecturers:

- Joan Martínez-Alier, Joan.Martinez.Alier@uab.cat Office # B3-110 Departament d'Economia i Història Econòmica, Facultat d'Economia i Empresa, Tel: 935811282
- Giuseppe Munda, Giuseppe.Munda@uab.cat Office # B3-112 Departament d'Economia i Història Econòmica, Facultat d'Economia i Empresa, Tel: 935814104
- Jeroen van den Bergh, Jeroen.Bergh@uab.cat Office # QC/3099 ICTA, Escola Tècnica Superior d'Enginyeria, Tel: 935813747
- Jesús Ramos-Martín, Jesus.Ramos@uab.cat Office # B3-112 Departament d'Economia i Història Econòmica, Facultat d'Economia i Empresa, Tel: 935814104

Contents

The course will introduce the field of ecological economics, giving attention to theoretical, empirical and methodological issues. In particular, the course will include an overview of traditional topics of environmental economics and more recent developments within ecological economics such complexity and thermodynamics, biophysical accounting, bounded rationality and social multi-criteria evaluation.

Goals of the Seminar

At the end of the course the student is expected to have a good understanding of:

- i) The main themes, theories and methods addressed by ecological economics;
- ii) The basic literature regarding ecological economics;
- iii) The essential differences between the way environmental problems and solutions are approached in standard economics and Ecological Economics;
- iv) New methods that have been proposed by, and are applied within, ecological economics;

Teaching approach

Lectures, reading of key literature, discussions. Each lecturer will provide key readings for each of the sessions, through the Virtual Campus platform. You are advised to regularly check this platform.

Evaluation

Lecturers may ask for short written essays. Each lecturer will give his specific guidelines. A final written test will complement the evaluation.

Location and time of lectures

ICTA, Aula Collserola, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10:00 – 13:00 h

Dates

10.11.09 Tu	Jeroen van den Bergh, Giuseppe Munda, Jesús Ramos-Martín,	Introduction to Ecological Economics
11.11.09 We	Jesús Ramos-Martín	Complexity and thermodynamics, and their relevance for ecological economics
17.11.09 Tu	Joan Martínez-Alier	Societal metabolism and environmental conflicts
18.11.09 We	Jesús Ramos-Martín	Accounting methods for societal metabolism (MFA, PIOTs, Virtual Water)
24.11.09 Tu	Jesús Ramos-Martín	Energy accounting (eMergy, exergy, Ayres' power and labour approach)
25.11.09 We	Giuseppe Munda	Economic valuation: cost-benefit analysis
01.12.09 Tu	Giuseppe Munda	Multi-criteria evaluation: an overview of mathematical approaches

02.12.09 We	Giuseppe Munda	The NAIADE software
09.12.09 We	Jeroen van den Bergh	Choice of environmental policy instruments
15.12.09 Tu	Joan Martinez-Alier	Biodiversity : issues in valuation
16.12.09 We	Joan Martinez-Alier	The notion of economic degrowth and its history in ecological economics
12.01.10 Tu	Jeroen van den Bergh	Economics of climate change and policy
13.01.10 We	Jeroen van den Bergh	Bounded rationality, evolution and innovation
19.01.10 Tu	Giuseppe Munda	Natural resource economics
20.01.10 We	Jesús Ramos-Martín	Multi-Scale Integrated Assessment of Societal and Ecosystem Metabolism
26.01.10 Tu	Jeroen van den Bergh	Spatial sustainability and trade: the ecological footprint
27.01.10 We	Jeroen van den Bergh	The growth debate: lecture and student debate