

Syllabus

Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy

Spring 2016

1. Administration

<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Module</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>
Le Viet Phu phulv@fetp.edu.vn	Environmental Economics and Policy	April 11 – May 18	Tue & Thur 3.30-5.00pm
Huynh The Du duht@fetp.edu.vn	Urbanization in Vietnam: Issues and Challenges	May 23 – May 25	Mon & Wed 3.30-5.00pm

2. Course Objectives

This five-week course introduces the concepts of environmental economics and sustainable development, with examples brought from real-world situations. The first week presents an overview of environmental economics and discusses situations in which governments need to intervene to correct market failures. Then, students will study which environmental policy instruments available to address different types of market failure. The second and the third week focus on measuring and incorporating environmental impacts, such as air, water, and noise pollution, in a conventional cost-benefit analysis framework and decision tools used in project appraisals. This part will also include a brief introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and methodologies used to estimate non-market environmental goods and ecosystem services. The fourth week presents a two-pronged approach to sustainable development: one related to the environment at the regional and national scale, and another at the local scale including household and community level. Student will explore the synergies and tradeoffs between these two approaches to sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods with a particular attention to the Mekong Delta of Vietnam in the greater Lower Mekong Basin context. The fifth week will focus on urbanization issues and challenges in Vietnam.

3. Requirements and Assessments

Environmental economics and policy is a technically demanding course, which requires a strong background in microeconomics and computational skills. The use of specialized software for displaying spatial data, such as land use data, and calculating location and distances to sources of pollution, will be required in many instance. Students will have an opportunity to learn and enhance various skills already obtained from other courses, then apply that knowledge in real-world situations. As a result, the ultimate assessment criteria would be for students to demonstrate the ability to navigate through technical terminologies, grasp an understanding of the framework used for environmental valuation in project appraisals, and be able to apply that knowledge to a specific situation that they find interesting. Those wishing to conduct their master's theses in environmental issues are particularly encouraged.

Course assessment:

Assessment of student performance will be based on three written policy memos, group presentations, and an essay at the end of the course. Students are expected to read all required materials and prepare prior to each discussion section.

Component	Weight
Policy Memo 1	10%
Policy Memo 2	10%
Policy Memo 3	10%
Group presentations	30%
Take-home Essay	40%
Total	100%

4. Schedule and Reading Materials

<i>Week</i>	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	1	<p>Overview of Environmental Economics and Policy</p> <p><i>This lecture discusses the rationale for studying environmental economics, the role of environmental economics and policy and its relation with other brands of economics, and examples of environmental policy in the real world.</i></p> <p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perkins, Dwight, Steven Radelet and David Lindauer (2006). <i>Economics of Development</i>, New York: WW Norton and Company, 6th edition. Chapter 20. <p><i>Additional References:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hussen, Ahmed (2004). <i>Principles of Environmental Economics</i>, Routledge London 2nd Edition, ISBN 0-203-57050-2. Chapter 4, 5, 6. <p>Policy Memo 1 Distributed</p>	April 11
2		<p>Instruments of Environmental Policy (EP)</p> <p><i>Students will learn the principle of environmental policy, and how the government can address environmental externalities and fix market failures through a broad range of market and non-market instruments.</i></p> <p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hussen (2004). Chapter 4, 5, 6. <p><i>Additional References:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field, Barry C. (1997). <i>Environmental Economics: An Introduction</i>, 2nd Edition. McGraw-Hill, ISBN 0-07-021498-0. Chapter 9-13. 	April 13
2	3	<p>Discussion of Environmental Policy Instruments</p> <p>Policy Memo 1 Due</p>	April 20
3	4	<p>Environmental Cost – Benefit Analysis (eCBA) and Decision Tools</p> <p><i>This lecture presents a conceptual framework for analyzing environmental cost and benefit, elements of eCBA, and decision-making criteria used in assessing the feasibility of an environmental project.</i></p> <p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field, Barry C. (1997). <i>Environmental Economics: An</i> 	May 4

*Introduction, 2nd Edition. McGraw-Hill, ISBN 0-07-021498-0.
Chapter 6-7.*

Additional References:

- *Hussen (2004). Chapter 9.*
- *Perman, Roger, Yue Ma, James McGilvray, and Michael Common, 2003. Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, Pearson Education Limited, ISBN 0273655590 (3rd edition). Chapter 11.*
- *Pearce, David, Giles Atkinson, and Susana Mourato (2006). Cost Benefit Analysis and the Environment. OECD Publishing. Chapter 2-3.*
- *Common, M (1996). Environmental & Resource Economics: An Introduction. Longman, ISBN 0-582-24632-6 (2nd Edition). Chapter 8.*

Policy Memo 2 Distributed

4 5 **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Projects** **May 9**

This lecture presents the principle of EIA in project appraisals, what EIA steps involve, and describe what capacities and supports one might need in order to conduct an environmental impact assessment.

Required Readings:

- *Bộ Tài nguyên và Môi trường, Tổng cục Môi trường (2009). Hướng dẫn kỹ thuật lập báo cáo đánh giá tác động môi trường các dự án sản xuất hóa chất cơ bản.*

Additional References:

- *EIA example of a Thermal Power Plant.*
- *MPP Theses: Đinh Thị Anh (2015). Thẩm định kinh tế, tài chính dự án xây dựng hệ thống xử lý nước thải tại KCN cao TPHCM; Hoàng Thị Chinh Thon (2015). Tác động của ô nhiễm tại các làng xã đến tình trạng khám chữa bệnh ở Việt Nam.*

6 **Discussion of eCBA and EIA** **May 11**

Policy Memo 2 Due

5 7 **Sustainable Development and Sustainable Livelihoods in Vietnam – Issues and Challenges** **May 16**

This lecture provides students with a broad overview of environmental challenges facing Vietnam in the 21st century. Issues to be covered include: climate change and projected impacts; resource intensive vs. knowledge-based development strategies; energy generation; trans-boundary issues that need inputs/cooperation from other countries, such as dams construction in Lao PDR and China and potential impacts. At the local scale, students learn to relate those changes to

household impacts and resilience by using a sustainable livelihoods framework.

Recommended References:

- *Bộ Tài nguyên và Môi trường (2012). Kịch bản biến đổi khí hậu, nước biển dâng cho Việt Nam. Nhà xuất bản Tài nguyên - Môi trường và Bản đồ Việt Nam.*
- *Mekong Delta Study 2015 (selected chapters).*
- *Mekong Development Plan 2013 (selected chapters).*
- *Department for International Development (DFID) 1999. Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets.*

Policy Memo 3 Distributed

8	<i>Discussion of Sustainable Development and Sustainable Livelihoods</i>	<i>May 18</i>
---	---	----------------------

Policy Memo 3 Due

6	<i>9 Urbanization in Vietnam: Issues and Challenges</i>	<i>May 23</i>
---	--	----------------------

The urban development section focuses on characteristics of urbanization and challenges for sustainable urban development in Vietnam. A comprehensive picture will be presented before approaches and solutions to deal with challenges to be introduced.

Required Readings:

- *Du Huynh 2012. The Transformation of Ho Chi Minh City: Issues in Managing Growth, Doctor of Design Dissertation at Harvard University, Chapter 1, 2.*

Additional Readings:

- *World Bank (2011). Vietnam Urbanization Review: Technical Assistance Report.*

10	<i>Urbanization in Vietnam (continued)</i>	<i>May 25</i>
----	---	----------------------

Required Readings:

- *Du Huynh 2012. The Transformation of Ho Chi Minh City: Issues in Managing Growth, Doctor of Design Dissertation at Harvard University, Chapter 3.*

Take-home Essay Distributed
