# Economics of Natural Resources

## Prof. Roberto Zoboli

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

*Knowledge and Understanding*: The aim is to provide theoretical and applied knowledge of the economics of natural resources and of economic policies for their sustainable use. The course particularly focuses on the global climate and environmental challenges, and explores their implications for economic growth and social development. At the end of the course, students are expected to have a sound knowledge of the economics of natural resources and of the theoretical concepts and principles on which sustainability policies at the global and European levels are based.

*Ability to Apply Knowledge and Understanding*: Students are expected to be able to apply this knowledge within different professional environments, in particular organisations and companies that pursue strategies for sustainable development, climate change, circular economy and environmental protection.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Fundamentals of sustainability theories and thinking

2. The political economy of natural resources and the environment

3. The economics and governance of climate change

4. The economics and policies of the circular economy

5. Extended socio-economic and industrial dimensions of the green transition

***READING LIST***

Slides presented during classes and material distributed during classes and/or made available on the lecturer’s Blackboard page.

The following reports may be considered as extensive background readings, while specific relevant sections will be indicated during classes:

P. Ekins al. *The Circular Economy: What, Why, How and Where*, University College London, and OECD, 2019 (parts indicated during classes), <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/regionaldevelopment/Ekins-2019-Circular-Economy-What-Why-How-Where.pdf>

N. Stern, *The Economics of Climate Change,* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2007 (parts indicated during classes), free at: [https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20100407172811/https:/www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/stern\_review\_report.htm](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20100407172811/https%3A/www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/stern_review_report.htm)

UNFCCC, Climate: Get the big picture (parts indicated during classes), <https://unfccc.int/resource/bigpicture/index.html#content-the-paris-agreemen>

N. Barbieri et alii, *Sustainability transition and the European Green Deal: A macro-dynamic perspective*, Eionet Report - ETC/WMGE 2021/8 December 2021 (parts indicated during classes), <https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-wmge/products/sustainability-transition-and-the-european-green-deal-a-macro-dynamic-perspective-1>

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, in which students are invited to actively participate with a good deal of curiosity, open-mindeness, and enthusiasm.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is a written paper – administered through during official dates (appelli) – composed by multiple choice questions (accounting for 40% of the final mark) and open questions (accounting for 60% of the final mark). The final score will be expressed out of thirty points and will take account of the student's level of understanding, knowledge, use of the appropriate tools and ability to discuss themes and topics covered in lectures. Exact dates will be displayed on the I-catt portal.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are strongly advised to attend lectures, to study the content on a regular basis and to take active parts in every side activity put forward by the professor.

The Blackboard platform provides the main online communication tool between the professor and students and the repository for didactic materials made available after lectures.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

Students are welcome to contact Prof. Roberto Zoboli by appointment at DISEIS - Dipartimento di Economia Internazionale, delle Istituzioni e dello Sviluppo (Via Necchi 5, fifth floor) or, at student’s choice, by Teams meeting. The professor is also available for short conversations at the end of all lectures.