**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

**Course Review Form**

**DATE:** 01/23/2017

**REVIEWER:** Anna Matthews

**COURSE TITLE & NUMBER:** ECON2505 ID Environmental Economics

**PROPOSED BY:** Eric J. Osborne

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**PREREQUISITES:** CUNY proficiency in reading and writing; ECON 1101 or ECON 1401

**COURSE IS: x** Existing New In development

**PROPOSED COURSE DESIGNATION**: x College Option x elective Capstone other:

**DEPARTMENT HOUSED IN:** Social Science

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE (e.g., co-taught, guest lecture, LC, other):**  guest lectures

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION** (if co-taught): n/a

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION: (current)** this course examines current environmental issues from a macroeconomic perspective, focusing on both the long- and short-term economic viability of various proposals to address current environmental challenges. Traditional goals of economic efficiency examined in the context of the need to expand renewable energy sources, green design, sustainable construction, and resource allocation and other efforts to combat climate change on a global scale.

Proposed: This interdisciplinary course examines current environmental issues from the perspective of several disciplines. While Economics serves as a central focus, the course draws extensively from the perspectives of Sociology, Architectural Technology, Environmental Control Technology, Hospitality Management (sustainable tourism), Sustainable Technology, and Philosophy. Traditional goals of economic efficiency will be examined in the context of the need to expand renewable energy sources, green building design and construction, sustainable agriculture and trade, resource allocation and other efforts to combat climate change on a global scale. It focuses on both the long and short-term economic viability of various proposals to address current environmental challenges drawing upon the inherent interdisciplinary connection to these vital economic issues.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE HOW COURSE MEETS INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITERIA?**

Interdisciplinary definition: the proposed ID course will examine to promote sustainable economic growth from the perspective of several disciplines, including social science, hospitality management and philosophy. Students will learn how technology, planning, design, and social and economic priorities can be applied to the goal of slowing global climate change and how working toward that goal strengthens and advances sustainable economic growth and development. Additionally, students will apply the concepts and methods of these several disciplines to the understanding of the dimensions of global climate change and how and why they are essential in working toward the goal of sustainable economic growth.

Learning Outcomes:

**Purposefully connect and integrate across discipline knowledge and skills to solve problems:** The ID course has the potential to connect the fundamentals of economics and varying economic theories about environmental problems to the study of several disciplines that form the substance of the topics covered in the course.

**Synthesize and transfer knowledge across disciplinary boundaries:** connecting to and building upon the foundation of the required pre-requisite economics courses, this ID course will introduce the wide range of issues and problems and directly link them to other disciplines. Learning from the perspectives of the other disciplines, such as hospitality management and philosophy, would expose students to the knowledge and methodologies of these other disciplines and how they relate to the subject of environmental economics and the course theme of advancing the goals of sustainability.

**Recognize varied perspectives:** hearing the perspectives from the multiple disciplines, students will develop the diverse outlook within sustainability/environmental economics; they will acquire respect for diverse viewpoints and apply the skills and concepts that are the foundation of other disciplines regarding the issues and questions that are central to Environmental Economics.

**Think critically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively:** students would work creatively with others in group problem solving, discussions and assigned projects, and should be able to express ideas orally and in written assignments and presentations.

**Become flexible thinkers:** students will acquire and learn to apply the skills and methods of inquiry to build an understanding of environmental issues and sustainability that crosses disciplinary boundaries, both in the social sciences and in other specifically related disciplines. This will require and encourage creative thinking about diverse approaches to problems and their solutions.

How is this Section/Learning Community/Other different from other sections/Learning Communities/Other? This ID course aims to bring together perspectives from several disciplines including environmental science, economics, social science, philosophy and hospitality management to offer a multi- and interdisciplinary view of the advantages and challenges of economic growth while advancing the goals of sustainability and protecting environment.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE?**

The proposed structure of the course is interdisciplinary in nature: 20% of class time will be devoted to guest lectures (3).

**DOES COURSE MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION?** Yes, the proposed ID course meets requirements for General Education.

The following Gen Ed SLO’s will be achieved:

• Knowledge: To develop an understanding of the key concepts that relate to environmental economics and to be able to synthesize and apply the tools and knowledge of other disciplines to the understanding of the central topics and theories of how to address environmental problems through economic policy.

• Skills: To develop and apply the tools of environmental economics from an interdisciplinary perspective; to be able to critically question, analyze, and discuss environmental economic problems and issues; to develop and strengthen the ability to discuss and analyze concepts and thoughts orally and in writing.

• Integration: To be able to apply the tools acquired from Economics and from the many related disciplines introduced in the course; to be able to build upon an understanding of environmental issues and sustainability across disciplines.

• Values, Ethics, and Relationships: To develop an understanding of and ability to apply diverse perspectives to the understanding of sustainability/environmental economics; to work creatively with others in group problem solving; to develop a respect for diverse viewpoints and apply the skills and concepts covered in the course to the analysis of related issues and concepts across other disciplines.

**STRENGTHS:** the students in this ID course will learn and benefit from the perspectives and experiences of the guest speakers who are teaching in the other City Tech programs.

**WEAKNESSES:** the proposal describes potential connections to more areas of study than is described in the syllabus (three currently, and they are not identified). It would be beneficial to invite guest lectures from the environmental technology and architectural technology, in addition to hospitality management and social science programs to increase the variety of multidisciplinary perspectives and broaden students’ experience in the interdisciplinary course.