IB 495 Business Study Abroad/ MBA 691 Directed Study
EC 308 Environmental Economics & Policy

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY IN DENMARK
Fall Semester 2019 (with travel over Fall Break)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environmental Economics focuses on all the different facets of the connection between environmental quality and the economic behavior of individuals and groups of people. There is the fundamental question of how the economic system shapes economic incentives in ways that lead to environmental degradation as well as improvement. This course is a survey of the application of economic analysis to environmental problems. The strength of environmental economics lies in the fact that it is analytical and deals with concepts such as efficiency, trade-offs, costs, and benefits. Analysis will focus on: policy options available to lawmakers and citizens, methods for assigning value to the environment, and air and water pollution and the laws meant to control these problems.

The motivation of this course, though, goes beyond the study of environmental economics. The starting context for study is Copenhagen, Denmark – the first capital city to declare their intention to be carbon-neutral by 2025. The course provides an overview of the culture, history and the economy of Denmark and surrounding region. Students gain awareness and understanding of the people and business climate of this region and the reasons why it has become the hotbed for innovation in green technology and design. Students then compare policy there to the United States.

3 credit hours, EC 210 prerequisites or equivalent; Open to undergraduate and graduate students

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Identify the key elements of a country’s political, environmental and economic policies as well as their cultural norms and how these influence a country’s standing in the global economy
• Analyze the characteristics of a country relevant to economic growth (geography, people, government, economy, communications and transportation) and perform a comparative analysis
- Understand how markets with externalities fail and how government intervention can improve market outcomes.
- Recognize the differences in cultural values and behaviors between Americans and Danes and adapt personal behavior to interact effectively with the Danish people and other foreigners.

**COURSE FORMAT**

This is a 3-credit UAB course that includes two main components:
1) Class Sessions and Course Assignments (before and after the study tour)
2) Study Tour of Copenhagen, Denmark (7-day cultural and business study tour)

The combination of class sessions and time spent on the study tour fulfills the UAB contact hours requirement for a 3-credit hour course. And while there will be much enjoyment and many deeply personal experiences on the study tour, this is a for-credit learning experience. It is therefore very important for students to recognize that the course is more than a trip and tour.

Students will read assigned material, complete online assignments, take an exam, conduct research on specific topics, make presentations to the class, post to the travel blog and complete either a reflection workbook (undergraduate students) or a research project and presentation to the class (graduate students). The study tour itinerary includes travel to Copenhagen, Denmark.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**


Additional materials will be posted in Canvas, available through the UAB library, or accessed from internet websites. Other source materials will be collected by students during their research.

**ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

Assignments vary depending on student status (undergraduate or graduate).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment of Undergraduate Students</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation about a destination or site</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professionalism and Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Blog</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Workbook</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Possible Points</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment of Graduate Students</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation about a destination or site</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professionalism and Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Blog</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project and Presentation</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Possible Points</td>
<td>1000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The following scale determines the final grades in the course.

- A = 900 to 1000 points
- B = 800 to 899 points
- C = 700 to 799 points
- D = 600 to 699 points
- F = 0 to 599 points

Assignments
Assignments will involve reading and exercises to build a “traveler’s” level of foreign language skills, understand the history and culture of Denmark and to complete various pre-work for class sessions on specific topics related to economic development and environmental policy.

Exam
The exam centers on selected chapters of the text and other assigned readings. The exam consists of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. The exam for graduate students will include more extensive essay and application questions.

Presentation on destination or site visit
Each student will be assigned a site visit for which to conduct research and provide an informative presentation to the class. You will be the “expert” on your site and you will also provide additional information during the study tour. Presentations will be made in class at the last session before the study tour.

Professionalism and Participation
Students on the study tour are representing UAB and the Collat School of Business. To provide a favorable impression and to get the most benefit from the study tour, students will be assessed daily during the study tour on professionalism and participation. A detailed rubric will be provided. The criteria include time management (attendance, promptness), respect (social behaviors and etiquette based on both US and Italian norms), preparedness (motivation, contribution) and appearance (well rested, dressed appropriately in business casual as required). Students are expected to be back at the hotel by 12 midnight on each study tour day. Additional guidelines will be provided.

Travel Blog
Students will be required to post to the class travel blog while on the study tour. You will be assigned two days on which you must post original content and two other days when you must comment on other students’ posts. Guidelines and practice posts will be made prior to travel. Students will be responsible for the technology tools (device and internet access) needed to post on the assigned days. Grading will be based on a rubric that includes criteria such as timeliness, content, reflection, voice, text layout, use of graphics/multimedia and quality of writing. Training materials on how to blog and additional guidelines will be provided.

Reflection Workbook
Undergraduate students are required to answer questions and complete a set of reflection exercises based on the study tour. Questions focus on specific activities on the study tour and more general questions about the impact of the study tour on the student’s perceptions and beliefs. Detail questions as well as a rubric will be provided. The workbook is due at the last class session after the study tour.
Research Project and Presentation
Graduate students are required to complete a significant research project and to present the results to the class. There are two parts. One is a focus is on an industry sector and the global outlook for the industry. The second is a comparative analysis of Denmark with another country using the concepts from the text and gathering data from a wide range of sources. The industry sector and comparison country must be approved by the instructor. Students will be provided with a detailed outline and a grading rubric. The project and presentations are due at the last class session after the study tour.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule includes 7 sessions (5 before and 2 after fall break) and a 7-day study tour over fall break. Note that assignments may be due during weeks when there is no class session. All class sessions are on [day and time TBD] in [room TBD] on the dates noted. The course ends on Dec 2nd (which does not include exam week).

PRE-TRAVEL CLASS SESSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Date</th>
<th>Topics and Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. TBD</td>
<td>• Course Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Terminology and Definitions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The Role of economics in environmental analysis and policy</td>
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<td>• Denmark Language and Culture</td>
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<td>2. TBD</td>
<td>• Denmark – Demographics, Culture, Business Environment and Pressing Issues</td>
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<td>• Green Technology Today (w/ Policy Framework for Innovation and Growth)</td>
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<td>• Incentives for Green design</td>
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<td>3. TBD</td>
<td>• Denmark – Demographics, Culture, Business Environment and Pressing Issues</td>
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<td>• Business Environment for Innovation</td>
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<td>• Effective Green Innovation Policies</td>
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<td>• Applying the Framework for Innovation</td>
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<td>4. TBD</td>
<td>• Exam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Work on research and presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. TBD</td>
<td>• Presentations on destinations and site visits</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Pre-Travel information and preparations</td>
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TRAVEL ITINERARY (tentative and subject to change)
Refer to the UAB Education Abroad website for information about the program fees and requirements.

Day 1 >> Fri. November 22:
• Flight to Copenhagen, Denmark (not included in the package price)

Day 2 >> Sat. November 23: (Copenhagen)
• Arrival at Copenhagen Kastrup Airport |
• Transportation to your hotel in Copenhagen on your own
• 6 nights in twin rooms with private bathrooms incl. breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Bethel in Copenhagen
• Public transportation pass for the duration of the entire stay in Copenhagen
• Welcome session and orientation walking tour with your on-site coordinator
• Welcome dinner at a restaurant in Copenhagen to kick off the program (today or on day 3 - depending on your preference)

Day 3 >> Sun. November 24: (Copenhagen)
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Public transportation during the day
• Guided walking tour of Copenhagen in the morning, to learn about the city’s history, while walking down the small cobble-stoned streets of medieval Copenhagen
• Guided tour of the Carlsberg Brewery in the afternoon, a German style brewing company founded in 1847 by J. C. Jacobsen.

Day 4 >> Mon. November 25: (Copenhagen)
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Public transportation during the day
• Guest lecture at your hotel or nearby on “Copenhagen: Carbon neutral capital by 2025” in the morning
• Visit to Copenhagenize Design Company in the afternoon (to be confirmed), a company which is offering a range of services - all related to the bicycle as means of transportation.

Day 5 >> Tues. November 26: (Copenhagen)
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Public transportation during the day
• Visit to the wind farm Middelgrunden in the morning (to be confirmed), to learn about the project, which was initiated by the Copenhagen Environment and Energy Office after Middelgrunden had been listed as a potential site in the Danish Action Plan for Offshore Wind.
• Admission to Christiansborg Palace in the afternoon, which is the seat of the Danish Parliament (Folketinget), the Danish Prime Minister's Office, was well as the Supreme Court of Denmark. Also, several parts of the palace are used by the Danish monarchy, including the Royal Reception Rooms, the Palace Chapel and the Royal Stables.

Day 6 >> Wed. November 27: (Malmö)
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Public transportation to the train station in Copenhagen
• Round-trip train tickets to Malmö (travel time: approx. 45 minutes one way)
• Guided walking tour of Västra Hamnen in Malmö in the morning, which is known as the City of Tomorrow. It is the first district in Europe that claims to be carbon neutral. The district uses an aquifer thermal energy storage system to heat buildings in the winter and cool them in the summer. The city of Malmö received a Special Mention award at the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize 2012 in recognition of its good work at Västra Hamnen.
• Free afternoon to discover Malmö on your own, before you return to Copenhagen with your group.

Day 7 >> Thurs. November 28: (Copenhagen)
• Breakfast at the hotel
• Public transportation during the day
Visit to the **Copenhagen Center on Energy Efficiency** in the morning (to be confirmed). Established in September 2013 as a joint activity of the Danish Government, the UN Environment and the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), the Copenhagen Center on Energy Efficiency is dedicated to accelerating the uptake of energy efficiency policies and programs at a global scale.

- Free afternoon to discover Copenhagen further on your own and for final discussions
- **Farewell dinner** at a restaurant in Copenhagen to wrap up the program

**Day 8 >> Fri. November 29: (Copenhagen)**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transportation to Copenhagen Kastrup Airport on your own
- Departure from Copenhagen Kastrup Airport to the USA (airfare not included)

**Post-Travel Class Sessions**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session Date</th>
<th>Topics and Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. TBD</td>
<td>• Lessons Learned on Study Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. TBD</td>
<td>• Presentations of Research Projects by graduate students</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Comparative Analysis of industry sections, Denmark and other Countries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Undergraduate Reflection Workbook due</td>
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<td>• Course wrap up</td>
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**Course Policies**

Students must apply, be accepted and pay program fees for the Education Abroad Faculty-Led Program AND register and pay tuition for the course (either EC 308, IB495 or MBA691). No other students or student companions are permitted on the study tour unless he or she is a student at UAB and has met both of these requirements.

The same policies that are in effect for “regular” courses are apply to this course. This includes the following:

**Collat School of Business Codes of Conduct**

Because this course will be partially online and some online-only students will be enrolled in the course, the codes of conduct for both the online and classroom types of courses are relevant. View the [Collat School of Business Code of Professional Classroom Conduct](#) to learn about policies regarding conduct online and in the classroom.

**UAB Policies**

While on campus for class sessions or while traveling, students are under the ethical and professional standards and policies of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

For details and more information, read the [Policies](#) section of the [Student Handbook](#).

The UAB Education Abroad office provides additional policies for the conduct of students while traveling abroad. These are provided when students apply for and register for the course.