

# Northern Marianas College

## CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

**Effective Semester / Session:** Fall 2012.

**Type of Action:**

- ☐ New
- ☒ Modification
- ☐ Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- ☐ Cancellation

**Course Alpha and Number:** NR 255 (Previously BI 255)

**Course Title:** Conservation Politics & Economics

**Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:**

This course is being modified for periodic updates and addition of required textbooks.

  
Dr. Alfredo B. De Torres

Proposer

  
Date

  
Dr. Alfredo B. De Torres

Department Chair

  
Date

  
Ms. Barbara Merfalen

Dean of Academic Programs and Services

  
Date

# Northern Marianas College

## Course Guide

Course: NR 255 Conservation Politics and Economics

### 1. Department

Sciences, Mathematics, Health and Athletics

### 2. Purpose

NR 255 is the fourth core course in the Natural Resources Management, Associate in Science degree. Natural Resources Management is an interdisciplinary program that emphasizes a theoretical and applied approach to agriculture, environmental, and natural resources production, assessment, classification, problem or phenomena mitigation, policy, and related conservation issues. This course provides academic training and on-the-job experience with a student focus on utilization, conservation, and protection of our land, sea, water, and air.

### 3. Description

#### A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required:

Holechek, J. L., et. al. *Natural Resources: Ecology, Economics, & Policy*. New Jersey. Prentice Hall, 2003.

Readability level: Grade 10

Recommended:

Ferry, Steven. *Environmental Law: Examples & Explanations*. New York. Aspen Publishers, 2010.

Readability level: Grade 12

Furey, John, et. al. *Island Ecology & Resource Management*. Saipan, MP: Northern Marianas College Press, 2006.

Readability level: Grade 10

Handouts on specific topics will also be distributed.

#### B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 per semester

2. **Lab:** Science lab, 3 hours per week / 45 per semester

3. **Other:**

#### C. Credits

1. **Number:** 4, including 1 credit of science lab

2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

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### **D. Catalogue Course Description**

NR 255 examines the role of government in resource management, valuing in the absence of prices, and economic externalities. Topics include politics and economic development, cost/benefit analysis, public goods and externalities, land use planning and zoning, federal and international environmental laws; three hours of lecture with laboratory/field trips required. Prerequisite: NR 253. English Placement Level: EN 101. Math Placement Level: MA 132; or consent of the instructor.

### **E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course**

This course fulfills the core/program requirement in the A.S. degree program in Natural Resources Management. This course also serves as a science elective for non-majors in NRM and other related degree programs.

### **F. Course Activities and Design**

This course incorporates lectures, guest speakers, audiovisual presentations, student oral presentations, take-home and web-based assignments, class project, laboratory exercises, field trips, periodic quizzes, exams, and a comprehensive final exam. Students will be required to participate fully in all class activities.

### **4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)**

Prerequisite(s): NR 253

English Placement Level: EN 101

Math Placement Level: MA 132; or consent of the instructor (COI)

### **5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed**

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 4-credit course; cost of textbook and instructional materials fee.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional resources needed for this course include classroom and laboratory space, chalkboard or whiteboard and supplies, TV/VCR, videotaped programs, digital camera, video flex camera attachment for microscopes, stereo and compounds microscopes, microscope slides and cover slips, multimedia projector, and basic laboratory and field supplies.



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### 6. Method of Evaluation

Student progress will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, oral presentations, assignments, class project, laboratory exercises, field trip reports, quizzes, exams, and comprehensive final exam.

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

### 7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

#### 1.0 Politics and Economic Development

- 1.1 Money and markets
- 1.2 Supply/demand and prices
- 1.3 Valuing in the absence of prices

#### 2.0 Cost/Benefit Analysis

- 2.1 Public goods and externalities
- 2.2 Market sectors
- 2.3 Growth and values of economic sectors
- 2.4 Factors for success and future projections

#### 3.0 Land Use Planning and Zoning

- 3.1 Master plans
- 3.2 Zoning
- 3.3 Development permitting
- 3.4 Applying performance standards
- 3.5 Enforcement

#### 4.0 Federal/International Environmental Laws

- 4.1 Governments role in resource management
- 4.2 Compliance with international and federal laws

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- 4.3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) laws and regulatory enforcement

### 8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The roles of politics and economic development in resource management;
- 2.0 The concepts of cost/benefit analysis as applied to natural resources;
- 3.0 Land use planning and zoning; and
- 4.0 Federal/international/CNMI environmental laws and regulatory enforcement.

### 9. Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1.0 Identify and explain the roles of politics and economic development in resource management;
- 2.0 Describe and apply the concepts of cost/benefit analysis as applied to natural resources;
- 3.0 Integrate appropriate land use planning and zoning; and
- 4.0 Demonstrate knowledge of the Federal/international/CNMI environmental laws and regulatory enforcement procedures.

### 10. Assessment Measures

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Periodic pre- and post-test assessment, quizzes, recitations and/or participation, examinations, including a final comprehensive examination.
- 2.0 Assessment of case report, class or group research project, field-based investigation or laboratory experimentations using the basic concepts and principles learned in this course.

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- 3.0 Evaluation of the student presentations, reactions, discussions and reflections on the basis of assigned readings pertaining to the particular natural and environmental resources issues.