

Northern Marianas College

CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Course: NR255 Conservation Politics & Economics

Effective Semester / Session: FALL 2025

Type of Action:

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

Course Alpha and Number: NR255

Course Title: Conservation Politics & Economics

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

This course is being modified for periodic updates, change to course description and purpose, and inclusion of NR 255 to serve as a prerequisite for EC212.

Kelsey McClellan *Kelsey Lynn McClellan* May 15, 2025

Proposer **Date**

Velma C. Deleon Guerrero *Velma* May 15, 2025

Academic Unit Head **Date**

Adam Walsh
Adam Walsh 05.15.25

Language & Format Review Specialist **Date**

Yunzi Zhang *Yunzi* May 15, 2025

Academic Council Chair **Date**

Lorraine C. Maui *Lorraine C. Maui* 2025-05-16

Interim Dean of Academic Programs & Services **Date**

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Course: NR255 Conservation Politics & Economics

1. Department

Natural Resource Management

2. Purpose

NR255 is the fourth core course in the Natural Resource Management, Associate in Science degree. Natural Resource Management is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources by integrating diverse perspectives and approaches to address complex environmental challenges. This course emphasizes a theoretical and applied approach to environmental law, policy, and resource management framed by economic theories of resource valuation, exploring topics of agricultural, environmental, and natural resource use, assessment, classification, environmental problem solving, and related conservation issues.

This course provides academic training in law, policy, and economic theory with a student focus on utilization, conservation, and protection of our land, sea, water, and air, with an emphasis on federal and CNMI resource management framework, although some international contexts are also explored. In NR255, students hone their critical thinking and analysis skills through academic exercises with real world implications ranging from drafting public comments, sharing presentations on key laws and economic theories, and working together to improve environmental outcomes through creative and iterative problem solving.

3. Description

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

Required:

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

Recommended:

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

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 per week / 45 per semester
2. **Lab:** 3 per week / 45 per semester
3. **Other:** None

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 4
2. **Type:** Regular Degree Credits

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D. Catalog Course Description

NR255 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/peer-learning/field trips required. Prerequisite: NR153; Concurrent Course Enrollment: NR253 (Offered Spring semester).

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course fulfills the core/program requirement in the AS degree program of Natural Resource Management. If students are interested in taking EC212 Principles of Microeconomics, NR255 serves as a prerequisite for EC212. This course may serve 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, laboratory exercises, field trips, periodic quizzes, tests, a class project, and comprehensive final exam.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment

Prerequisites: NR153 with a grade of C or better
Concurrent Course Enrollment: NR253

Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s)

English Placement Level: EN101
Mathematics Placement Level: MA132

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/white board and supplies, multimedia projector, basic laboratory supplies.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student progress will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, oral presentations, written assignments, laboratory/field trip reports, quizzes, tests, and a comprehensive final exam. NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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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 & 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 & Zoning
 - 3.1 Master plans
 - 3.2 Zoning
 - 3.3 Development permits
 - 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
 - 4.3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) laws and regulatory enforcement

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8. Instructional Goals

The course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The role 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.

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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 of Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1.0 Quizzes & Tests;
- 2.0 Case Studies;
- 3.0 Research Project;
- 4.0 Presentations; and
- 5.0 Comprehensive Final Exam.












NR255.2

Final Audit Report

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