

**Department:** Agricultural and Resource Economics

**Course number:** 3440W

**Course title:** Writing in Environmental and Resource Policy

**Credits:** 1

**Contact Person:** Marilyn Altobello

**Q/W:** W

**Catalog Copy:** ARE240W/3440W Writing in Environmental and Resource Policy. Either Semester. One credit. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800. Co-requisite: ARE234/3434. A writing intensive class integrated with course content in ARE 234/3434. Open to Resource Economics majors. Others by consent. Not open to students who have passed ARE 234W/3434W.

**Justification:** - ARE 234W is currently one of two courses in writing for the Resource Economics major. ARE 234 and the existing ARE234W have been taught co-mingled. We are requesting to eventually drop ARE234W and replace it with the one credit ARE 240W/3440W, which students will take as a co-requisite along with the 3-credit ARE 234/3434. This will allow more intensive instruction in writing, more personal attention to each student, and better monitoring of each student's progress in developing writing skills.

**Course Information:**

ARE 240W/3440W. The purpose of this one credit course is to train students in scientific writing in the field of Environmental and Resource Policy. In order to receive credit for this course, students must enroll concurrently in ARE 234/3434 Environmental and Resource Policy. ARE 234/3434 is designed to examine natural resource use, environmental quality, and associated policy issues. Emphasis is on the development of analytic and policy approaches for solving problems related to optimal management and regulation of pollution. Special attention is placed on problems associated with air and water quality, hazardous wastes, toxic substances, marine pollution and the global environment. The role of government in managing and regulating natural resource use and environmental quality is examined along with current and proposed legislation in this area.

W-course criteria: The writing will be organized as follows. Each student will select an environmental or resource issue or problem of interest to him/her and conduct an in-depth analysis of policies related to that issue or problem utilizing policy evaluation criteria presented in reading assignments and discussed in lectures in ARE 234/3434. Each student will be required to search the scholarly literature, select appropriate materials pertaining to his/her chosen topic, and then read and incorporate these into three writing assignments.

Each writing assignment will build upon the one before it, and the end result will be a 15-page (minimum) final paper.

The FIRST ASSIGNMENT (Prospectus-Due end of week 4) is a 3-5 page paper proposal outlining the student's topic and approach. This will be peer-reviewed and also reviewed by the professor and teaching assistant and then returned to the student with comments.

The SECOND ASSIGNMENT (First Draft-Due end of week 8) is a development and expansion of the paper proposal into a 15 page minimum first draft. This draft will be peer-reviewed, then reviewed by the professor and teaching assistant and returned to the student with comments.

The THIRD ASSIGNMENT (Final Draft) consists of the final paper (also a minimum of 15 pages) which is a refinement of the first draft and incorporates professor, teaching assistant, and peer-review comments provided on the first draft. The final paper is due the last day of class.

Each of the three writing assignments will be evaluated for relevance, problem formulation, content and analysis, organization, structure, grammar, punctuation, spelling and clarity. The final grade for ARE 240W/3440W will be determined as follows: Prospectus (10%), First Draft (25%), and Final Draft (65%). As stated above, students enrolled in ARE 240W/3440W must enroll concurrently in ARE 234/3434. Failure to complete the written work satisfactorily will result in a grade of F for both ARE 234/3434 and ARE 240W/3440W.

### W Criteria

(1) The writing assignments will allow students to enhance learning the content of ARE 234/3434 (which must be taken concurrently with ARE 240W/3440W) by requiring them to select an environmental and resource issue or problem of their choice, along with related policies, and analyze and evaluate it according to policy evaluation criteria presented in ARE 234/3434. There will be three writing assignments: Prospectus, First Draft, and Final Draft. The final paper will be a minimum of 15 pages. The grading for ARE 240W/3440W will be as follows: Prospectus(10%); First Draft (25%); and Final Draft (65%).

(2) Modes of writing instruction will include: formal in-class instruction by the professor and teaching assistant; library visits; peer-review of student writing assignments; one-on-one meetings between the students and teaching assistant/professor; use of UConn Writing Center; and written and oral peer-review comments, as well as comments provided by the instructor and teaching assistant.

(3) There will be three writing assignments, and each will build upon the one before it, and the end result will be a 15-page (minimum) final paper. The first assignment (Prospectus-Due end of week 4) is a 3-5 page paper proposal outlining the student's topic and approach. This will be reviewed by the instructor/TA/peers and returned to the student with comments and corrections. The second assignment (First Draft-Due end of week 8) is a development and expansion of the student's prospectus into a 15 page (minimum) first draft. This will be reviewed by the instructor/TA/peers and returned to the student with comments and corrections. The third

assignment (Final Draft) consists of the final paper (also a minimum of 15 pages) which is a refinement of the first draft and incorporates all comments provided on the first draft. The final paper is due the last day of class. Each assignment will be evaluated for relevance, content, problem formulation, organization, structure, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and clarity.

(4) The syllabus will include the F-clause: Students taking ARE 240W/3440W must enroll concurrently in ARE 234/3434, and failure to complete the written work satisfactorily will result in a grade of F for both ARE 234/3434 and ARE 240W/3440W.

### **Supplemental Information:**

#### **Syllabus: -ARE 240W/3440W WRITING IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE POLICY-**

I. COURSE OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this one-credit class is to provide a writing-intensive experience primarily for Resource Economics majors that will enable them to develop their writing skills within the context of the discipline. In order to receive credit, this class must be taken concurrently with ARE 234/3434.

II. INSTRUCTORS: (1) Marilyn Altobello, WB Young Building, Room 316; Phone: 860-486-2740; [marilyn.altobello@uconn.edu](mailto:marilyn.altobello@uconn.edu) and (2) Teaching Assistant TBA.

III. TIME AND LOCATION: (TBA) This course will meet one 50-minute class period per week for the duration of the semester (14 weeks).

IV. WRITING ASSIGNMENT: A research paper is to be written on a topic dealing with a natural resource or environmental policy problem of special interest to the student. The paper will be written in three steps. STEP 1. (Due week 4). Each student will submit a 3-5 page (double-spaced typed) paper prospectus outlining the major problem and policies she/he wishes to investigate, an explanation of why the topic is important, the approach to be used in analyzing the problem/policy, and a partial list of references. The Instructor/TA will return the prospectus to the student with comments on content and quality of writing. (The page requirement in this and in subsequent steps refers only to text. References, endnotes, tables, charts, graphs etc. do not count toward the page requirement). STEP 2. (Due week 8). Each student will then prepare a 15-17 page first draft. The paper should contain a problem statement, an analysis of the problem, (causes, consequences, implications), an analysis of policies for addressing the problem, and conclusions and recommendations. The paper should also include a list of endnotes and references, with diagrams, tables, and charts as needed. This draft will be returned to the student with comments on content and writing style. Specific suggestions for improvement will be provided. STEP 3. (Due week 14). Each student will prepare a final draft of the paper (15-17 pages). The final draft will be due the last day of class. Close attention should be given to the comments provided on Step 2.

V. GRADING: There are no exams for this course. The prospectus (Step 1) must be successfully completed before the student is allowed to progress to the remaining steps. The final two writing assignments (Steps 2 and 3) will be graded as follows: Importance of Topic,

Originality (10%); Formulation of Problem (15%); Analytical Depth (15%); Conclusions and Recommendations (10%); Spelling and Punctuation (10%); Grammar and Writing Mechanics (15%); Organization and Structure (15%); and Clarity of Expression (10%). The final grade for this course will be determined as follows: Step 1-Prospectus (10%); Step 2-First Draft (25%); and Step 3-Final Draft (65%).

VI. CLASS SCHEDULE: All classes will be conducted by Prof/TA. Week 1: Introduction; Discussion of possible research paper topics; Prospectus assignment. Week 2: Reference Sources, Style, Format; Academic Scholarship; Peer-review. Weeks 3 and 4: Meetings at University Library (Prospectus Due-week 4). Week 5: Appointments to discuss Prospecti. Week 6: Research Paper Organization. Week 7: Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Plagiarism. Weeks 8 and 9: Self-evaluation and Peer-evaluation of Student Papers (First Draft Due-week 8). Weeks 10 and 11: In-class Discussion of Revising Papers. Weeks 12 and 13: One-on- One Meetings to discuss first draft papers. Week 14: Final Paper Due; Course Evaluation; Wrap-up.