

**SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY****COURSE OUTLINE****PROGRAM: Natural Resources Economics**

1. Course Code	NREC4903	
2. Course Title	RESEARCH PROJECT I	
3. Credits	3 CH, 12 CP, 6 ECTS	
4. Pre-requisite Course (s)		
5. Co-requisite Course (s)	-	
6. Equivalent Course (s)	-	
7. Course Category (Specify either as Elective or Requirement and appropriate level: College, Department, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> University Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> University Elective
	<input type="checkbox"/> College Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> College Elective
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Department Elective
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):	
8. Course Owner	College: CAMS	Department: NRE
9. Course Type	Supervised Research Project	
10. Language of Instruction	English	

11. Course Description

Research Project I and II must be undertaken in consecutive semesters and acceptable progress is required in Part 1 before continuing in Part 2.

The two courses are required from the fourth (final) year students in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the BSc degree in Natural Resources Economics. The two courses must be taken by students in 2 consecutive semesters.

Research Project I is an essentially research-based and stand-alone. It is offered after completion of 90 credits. The pre-request courses are NREC 3106, NREC3220 and NREC4010/4104.

The core objective of the course is that students are given the opportunity to undertake independent studies to master a particular topic and use this knowledge to solve a specific problem in Natural Resources Economics and relevant fields.

A project may be assigned to an individual student or a group of two or three students depending on the nature of the project and staff availability.

Students may either select a project from the project bank as suggested by the faculty members of Department of Natural Resources Economics or ask a member to supervise them on a project.

Objectives of the course:

- Objective 1: To familiarize students with research methodology in the field of Natural Resource Economics and in a specific area.
- Objective 2: To help students will learn research proposal components.
- Objective 3: To introduce students to the basic literature searching, theoretical and empirical studies.
- Objective 4: To train student to find the gap of the study, formulate the research questions, objectives, and hypothesis and research contribution.
- Objective 5: To train students to work independently or as a team and complete a given task in a given time scale.
- Objective 6: To provide training in the data collection techniques
- Objective 7: To orally present and defend the Progress Report.

12. Teaching/Learning Strategies

Students should write up a Progress Report in which they describe what is achieved in Research Project in Natural Resources Economics Part 1, and also what is expected to be achieved in Research Project in Natural Resources Economics Part 2 in the following semester. This progress report must be submitted to the research project committee by Week 13, and it has to be compiled according to the following guidelines:

- 1) The Progress Report should consist of at least 5 pages and at most 25 pages (not counting appendices).
- 2) The Progress Report should contain a title, introduction, and a conclusion.
- 3) The Progress Report should contain a detailed literature review and the theoretical background of the topic
- 4) The Progress Report should contain specified model and conceptual framework, research methodology and data collection techniques

13. Evaluation Methods

Assessment will be based on the extent to which the Objectives of the Research Project I (as stated in the previous page) have been achieved. Each of the students working on a project will be assessed independently. The assessment components are divided as follows:

- 1) Supervisor Assessment Checklist [40 marks]

There are 7 items that the student must achieve to complete this component:

- a. Read the Guidelines for the Project Course and discuss it with the supervisor.
- b. Write a detailed plan of the project (outline) after consultation with the supervisor
- c. Use Library and its services, and the search engines to undertake literature review
- d. Attend and participate regular weekly meetings with the supervisor
- e. Complete a task in a given time scale (Good time management)
- f. Work independently or in a team
- g. Attend at least 2 related seminars in the department or college

- 2) Supervisor and Examiner Assessments of the Progress Report [20+20 marks]
- 3) Supervisor and Examiner Assessments of the Presentation [10+10 marks]

There are 4 items of this part:

- i. Clarity of the presented material.
- ii. Understanding of the presented material.
- iii. Confidence in answering questions correctly
- iv. Presentation skills (time managements, addressing the audience)

The cut-off points for allocating grades of NREC 4901

PERCENTAGE	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	57	<57
GRADE	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F

14. Required Course Core Material

This course is an essentially research-based and stand-alone. It is offered after completion of 90 credits. The pre-request courses are NREC 3106, NREC3220 and NREC4010/4104

15. Matching Course Objectives with the Program Outcomes and with SQU Graduate Attributes

* [Click here](#) to view a list of action verbs use in developing objectives

SQU Graduate Attributes

A. SQU graduates should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. apply the knowledge and skills relevant to the specialization 2. communicate effectively and use information and communication technologies 3. critically analyze complex information and present it in simple legible manner 	B. SQU graduates possess <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. interpersonal communication skills and alignment with culture of international labour market to assist them in practical life and in living successfully 2. skills and motivation for independent learning and engagement in lifelong learning and research 3. work ethics and positive values, and enjoy intellectual independence and autonomy 4. teamwork skills and display potential leadership qualities 	C. SQU graduates should relish good citizenship qualities, conscious of their national identity and socially responsible, engage in community affairs and mindful of contemporary issues.
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#	Course Learning Objective	Relevant Program Outcome(s)	Applicable Attribute(s)
1.	Getting familiar with the structure of thesis and academic papers in the field of Natural Resource Economics	(A) a demonstrated depth of knowledge in the areas of Natural Resource Economics (B) the ability to analyse and interpret the results of surveys and other data collection methods commonly used in Natural Resource Economics.	A1
2.	Getting familiar with the academic writing style.	(A) a demonstrated depth of knowledge in the areas of Natural Resource Economics	A1, A3, B2, B4

		<p>(B)the ability to analyse and interpret the results of surveys and other data collection methods commonly used in Natural Resource Economics.</p> <p>(D/E) the ability to think critically, provide solutions to problems, and implement these solutions, especially in a team context</p> <p>(I) a recognition of the need for, and an ability to engage in life-long learning</p>	
3.	Write a literature review and place one's work in the literature, design the conceptual framework and specified the mathematical modelling	<p>(A) a demonstrated depth of knowledge in the areas of Natural Resource Economics</p> <p>(B) the ability to analyse and interpret the results of surveys and other data collection methods commonly used in Natural Resource Economics.</p> <p>(K) an ability to use computers and other tools in the practice of their profession.</p>	A3, A2, B3
4.	Write a comprehensible proposal that includes the development of a research questions, problem, hypothesis, literature review, research conceptual framework, research methodology and plan for data collection and analysis.	<p>(A) a demonstrated depth of knowledge in the areas of Natural Resource Economics.</p> <p>(G) the ability to communicate effectively in English orally and in writing and to various audiences</p> <p>(H2) an ability to link Natural Resource</p>	A1, A2, B3

		Economics and other disciplines in the context of a sustainable exploitation of the natural resources both nationally and internationally.	
5.	Present proposal orally to a specialized audience, using appropriate visual support.	(G) the ability to communicate effectively in English orally and in writing and to various audiences;	B1

16. Student Responsibilities

It is the student's responsibility to know and comply with all University Academic Regulations relevant to participation in this course. These regulations specifically include the Attendance and Student Academic Misconduct policies.

For attendance, it is the student's responsibility to be punctual and to attend all classes.

Students are expected to perform their work with honesty and avoid any academic misconduct, which is defined as the use of any dishonest or deceitful means to gain some academic advantage or benefit. This can take many forms, including but not limited to, the following: copying, plagiarism, collusion and forging documents. For full details please refer to the Undergraduate Academic Regulations and to the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

Additionally, this course requires that you:

It is the responsibility of the student to keep records of ALL activities related to the research project in a comprehensive manner. This documentation will be used to support the student evaluation in the course.

It is the student's responsibilities to adhere with the following:

1) Registration

a. Obtain the approval of the academic advisor to register in the project course, then register NREC4901 with the assigned section according to the supervisor's names.

b. Choose a topic out of the project proposals bank that will be provided by the FYP committee at the end of the semester proceeding the semester in which the student will take NREC4901.

c. Obtain the approval of the supervisor of the chosen topic and inform the FYP committee.

2) Progress through the Semester

a. Maintain regular meetings with the project Supervisor throughout the semester for 2-3 hours per week to discuss what they have done since their last meeting, and to obtain guidance for the work to follow. These hours are treated as normal contact hours. This contributes to the assessment of Objective 3.

b. Submit a preliminary outline of the project to the Project Supervisor by the end of week 4 of the first semester. This outline should consist of at most 2 pages, describing the project and its target results. The outline contributes to the assessment of Objective 3.

c. Complete the necessary literature search for references used in the project or data collection required for the project This constitutes to the assessment of Objective 2.

3) Completion of the project Progress Report of part 1 (NREC 4901)

a. Submit a Progress Report of the project to the project supervisor and examiner by the end of Week 13. This constitutes to the assessment of Objective 2 and Objective 4.

b. Sit an oral exam on Week 14 as scheduled by the FYP committee. Each of the students working on a project will be examined for about 20 minutes on the submitted project progress report. This constitutes to the assessment of Objective 5.

4) Extensions

If requested by the project Supervisor, only a one-week delay in the submission date is acceptable. Late submission of the progress report of the project due to valid reasons is possible but students must obtain the approval of their Supervisor and the Project Committee. Without the approval, submissions later than Week 13 for NREC4901 will be subjected to a 10-point reduction for every week the report is late. If the report is still not submitted by the end of the final exam period (Week 17 of the first semester), the students will be assigned grade F

Tentative Schedule			
Week	Lecture/ Topic	Topic/Material to be covered	Assessment
1	First seminar	Introduction to the course requirements/ grading and assessment/development of work plan	
2	weekly meeting	Literature review and discussion with the supervisor	
3	weekly meeting	Supervisor monitoring the work progress and the project diary	
4	Second seminar	Literature review and academic search techniques	
5	weekly meeting	Evaluation of student's performance	Preliminary presentation/Viva + diary 5%
6	weekly meeting	Supervisor monitoring the work progress and the project diary	
7	weekly meeting	Supervisor monitoring the work progress and the project diary	

8	weekly meeting	Discussion with supervisor on mid-term presentation	
9	weekly meeting	Preparation of mid-term presentation	
10	weekly meeting	Evaluation of student's performance	Mid-term presentation/Viva + midterm report + diary 30%
11	Third seminar	Tools needed to do research and techniques of data collections	
12	weekly meeting	Evaluation of student's performance	
13	weekly meeting	Interim Progress Report writing, Project diary evaluation	
14	weekly meeting	Report submission, Discussion with supervisor on presentation	
15	weekly meeting	Final Report presentation and oral examination	Final presentation/Viva + Final report + diary 65%

IMPORTANT DATES

Week	Semester 1
1	Students: register in NREC4901
2	
3	
4	Students: submit the project outline to the supervisor
5	Project Committee: report to the board the list of all sections of NREC4901
6	Supervisor: submit the Project Outline (Form 1-Outline) to the FYP committee
7	
8	Project Committee: examiners approval
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	Students: submit the Progress Report to the supervisor, examiner, and the FYP Committee Supervisor: submit the Checklist Assessment (Form 1-CheckList) to the FYP committee
14	Presentation.
15	Supervisor: submit Supervisor Assessment (Form 1-Sup) to the FYP Examiner: submit Examiner Assessment (Form 1-Exm) to the FYP
16	FYP Committee: students grades approval
17	Supervisor: submit grades to A&R