



***What do you Mean I Can't Have More Cake? Unlimited Wants & Scarce Resources: Decision Making in a Limited World***, Elizabeth Porter, Economist, Jacksonville University, Wednesdays 5-7 p.m. January 18-April 4, 2012

**Seminar Summary** – All resources are scarce, time, money, and natural resources. Economics is the study of the decisions that individuals and society make given our limited resources. There is an increasing concern however that we are making decisions that satisfy our needs and wants in ways that are unsustainable. Sustainability is grounded on the conviction that societies should develop ways to meet their present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to provide for themselves. Since sustainability is ultimately about the scarcity of resources, however, the primary focus of this seminar is the development of an understanding of basic economic principles and a discussion of choices to meet future challenges. In this seminar, participants will explore the diversity of disciplines that are critical to understanding and creating solutions for economic and environmental challenges.

**Seminar topics:**

- What is Economics? Economic Perspectives
- "The New Normal": Our Economy and Economic Growth
- Natural Resources and Biocapacity
- Unsustainable Patterns/Misalignment of Resources
- Ack! Debt!
- Unemployment
- Our Ecological Footprint
- Personal Finance
- Human Capital
- Being Green

**Elizabeth Porter** is an instructor at Jacksonville University. She holds a MA in Development from the University of Manchester in the UK, and a BA in International Relations & Diplomacy having studied in Germany and Spain. Elizabeth is currently a doctoral student at the University of Florida where she is researching poverty and deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest. She has worked in numerous countries for different international organizations, including the UN. Elizabeth is a Jacksonville native and the daughter of a Duval County school teacher.