Economics 3545  
Environmental Economics for Non-Majors

Preliminaries

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Introduction

This course is an overview of environmental issues facing the US and the world today. This course will use economic analysis to evaluate informed and responsible environmental policies. Economics 2010, principles of microeconomics, is a prerequisite for this course. Knowledge of supply, demand, profit maximization, the functioning of markets, the role of prices, discounting, the appropriate measures of economic benefits, and market failure is presumed. However, these concepts will be reviewed at the beginning of the course.

Grades and Related Policies

There will be four critical-analysis writing assignments worth 25 points each. The purpose of these assignments is to thoughtfully apply the economic principles presented in class to real-world environmental issues. In completing these assignments, you will be able to select from a number of environmental issues that will be posted on the Web at spot.colorado.edu/~ahrens/econ3545.html. Assignments must be typed, and you are limited to three double-spaced pages.

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Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances. If an assignment is missed, for any reason, the weight of each of your remaining assignments will be increased proportionally. To avoid an F in the course, at least three assignments must be turned into me. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You are encouraged to work together on the assignments, but the work you turn in must be your own. Confirmed cases of dishonesty will result in an F for the course; other sanctions may be imposed by the University.
Course Text and Readings Requirements

We will rely on a single text in this course. The text is Environmental Economics: An Introduction and will be followed fairly closely. The book is available at both the Colorado Bookstore (on the Hill) and the CU Bookstore (in the UMC).

Course Schedule

The schedule of course topics is listed below. Approximately one week is allocated for each topic. More than one week may be spent on some, while less time may be spent on others. Although the course schedule may change, assignment dates are fixed to assist you in planning your term.

Overview of Economic Concepts 7/8-7/11
Reading: Chapters 3-5

Economics and the Environment 7/14-7/18
Reading: Chapters 2, 6-8

Environmental Policy Overview 7/21-7/25
Reading: Chapters 9-13

U.S. Environmental Policy 7/28-8/4
Reading: Chapters 14-17

International Environmental Policy 8/5-8/7
Reading: Chapters 18-21