Syllabus  
Economics 8535-001  
Environmental Economics Graduate Seminar I  
Fall 2011

Nicholas Flores, Associate Professor  
Economics 210  
Voice: (303) 429-8145  
Email: Nicholas.Flores@Colorado.edu

Location: Economics 5  
Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 p.m.–1:45 p.m.  
Office Hours: Thursday 2:15 – 3:45 p.m. and by appointment

Course Objectives:

This course introduces students to the concepts and methods commonly used in applying economics to analyze environmental and natural resource problems. As the first of a two course sequence, this course provides a broad overview of many topics, emphasizing both theory and application.

Course Components:

1) Classroom Activities: Class will include lectures, discussion, and in-class problem solving, both in teams and individually. Readings will be assigned prior to class and students will have read the material by class time.
2) Problem Sets: There will be regular problem sets throughout the semester.
3) In-class Examinations: There will be two examinations, one mid-term and another administered during finals.
4) Research Project: Students are required to write a research paper on a topic of their choosing. The goal of the research paper is to develop and propose an original research project.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Center for Community N200, and http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html

Disability Services’ letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices.
Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/
Evaluative Criteria:
Problem Sets: 10%
Class Participation and Performance: 5%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Research Paper: 35%
Final Exam: 25%

Odds & Ends:
Students should be prepared for class and that includes reading papers and turning in assignments on time. Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled classes.

Important Class Dates:
August 23 – First Day of Class
November 21-25 – Thanksgiving Break
December 8 – Last Day of Class
December 13 – Final Examination, 4:30 – 7 p.m., Economics 5
Course Readings
(Subject to Change During the Semester)

Reading Set 1: Select Environmental Problems


Reading Set 3: Environmental Classics

Reading Set 4: Putting a Price Tag on Nature (Revealed Preference)

Travel Cost Method


Hedonic Price Method


Reading Set 5: Putting a Price Tag on Nature (Stated Preference)
Contingent Valuation


Multi-Attribute (Conjoint) Valuation

Reading Set 6: Willingness to Pay and Willingness to Accept

Reading Set 7: Issues in Stated Preference Analysis

Reading Set 8: Environmental Management 1

Voluntary Approaches to Management
Reading Set 9: Environmental Management 2
*Market Instruments*

Reading Set 10: Uncertainty

Reading Set 11: Bridging Quasi Experimental and Structural Methods