

ECON-3545-001: Environmental Economics

Spring 2020

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Office: ECON 309B Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9 -10 am
TA: Brachel Champion Email: Brachel.Champion@colorado.edu
Office: Econ 304 Office Hours:
Class Meeting: MWF 2:00 - 2:50, CLRE 207
Class website: Canvas

Course description

Economic perspectives can give insights into the optimal use and preservation of our natural environment. In this course we will examine the contributions of economics to studying environmental issues and analyzing environmental policies from an economic perspective. From this course students should have a clear understanding of how economic theory informs public policy as well as some knowledge of what policies are currently being used in environmental issues.

This course is designed for non-economics majors and as such will require less math than other economic courses (see prerequisites). Instead we will blend learning economic theory and (some) mathematical models with discussion of real world examples.

Textbook

Optional: William J. Baumol and Wallace E. Oates, *The Theory of Environmental Policy*, 2nd edition.

Optional: Tom Tietenberg and Lynne Lewis, *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*, 9th edition.

Additional readings may be assigned that require students to access economic journals.

Access is free on campus and via the CU VPN.

Prerequisites

A basic understanding of microeconomics is required for this class. Students should have previously taken ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics) or an equivalent class at another institution. This course requires students to know basic algebra at the same level as the aforementioned ECON 2010. There will be no formal math review as part of this class.

Grading

20% Homework

15% Literature Review

15% Participation

20% Quizzes

30% Final

Homework: (Canvas)	There will be 5 homework. It will be due before class starts. Homework will either be multiple choice or short answer, which will usually consist of a brief discussion or summary of an assigned reading, and will be graded on a check plus/check/check minus system. The lowest homework score will be dropped. There is no makeup policy.
Literature Review:	At the end of the semester, students will be expected to turn in one literature review. This literature review must be on an approved subtopic of material covered in class. The literature review must be of economic literature.
Participation:	This portion of your grade will come entirely from the clicker questions. This part of your grade is based on completion. This means whether or not you answer the clicker question correctly

	is irrelevant. Three days will be dropped.
Quizzes:	There will be 5 short quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 5%. Quizzes will be composed of multiple choice questions. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.
Final:	The final will be composed of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and long answer questions. The final exam will require knowledge from throughout the semester.

Grading will largely be done by the class TA, Brachel Champion. Students with concerns over their grades should contact him at Brachel.Champion@colorado.edu

Tentative Course Outline

1. Foundations of Environmental Economics
2. Environmental Valuation
3. Market Failure and Environmental Goods
4. Policy Choice
5. Resource Economics

Cheating

Cheating on will include, but not be limited to, looking at others' work, talking to others during exams, accessing electronic devices during exams, copying the work of others, and sharing work with others. Students that need to use the restroom during an exam may be escorted by TAs or the instructor. Students caught cheating will receive a 0 on the assignment/exam and their class grade will be dropped by 20%. Students who have their work copied on an exam will receive the same punishment unless they are able to prove they took reasonable steps to prevent the cheating. Students will also be reported to the Honor Council for further disciplinary action.

Electronics

Laptops are allowed, however if a student is caught browsing the internet, that student will lose their laptop privileges. Earbuds and headphones are not allowed. Excessive cell phone use is not allowed. Students who fail to follow these policies will be asked to leave and receive a 0 for the day.

Make Up Work

There will be no make-up work unless students have university sanctioned absences, serious injury, or an emergency that prevents class attendance. Students are required to provide proof that their absence has met these criteria. A note that a student merely attended a medical facility will be insufficient.

University Policies

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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.

For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

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. In this class, if you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so we can make proper arrangements.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

The Office of Victim Assistance can be reached at 303-492-8855. Its <http://www.colorado.edu/ova/>.

The webpage www.colorado.edu/undocumented contains information regarding campus counseling resources available for students and employees with DACA Status.