

Environmental Economics

ECON 3545 – Spring 2016

Instructor	Richard Peterson
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Office	ECON 14
Office Hours	Monday 11:00 AM - Noon, Thursday 10:00 AM - Noon and by appointment, via email
Class Meetings	MWF 10:00-10:50, EKLC E1B20
Course Website	The course website is accessed through Desire2Learn where you will find all related course materials.
TA	Joe Vavrus, joseph.vavrus@colorado.edu
TA Office Hours	ECON 309C, Wednesday Noon – 2:00 PM

Course Description and Objectives

The field of economics provides many insights on the use and preservation of our natural environment. In this course we will investigate the unique 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 economics courses (see prerequisites). Instead we will blend learning economic theory and (some) mathematical models with discussion of real world examples.

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 not be any formal math review as part of this class.

Readings & Other Materials

Tom Tietenberg & Lynne Lewis (2009). *Environmental Economics & Policy*, Pearson, 6th Edition (required). An ebook option is available.

Additional required readings/videos/audio will be assigned throughout the semester. I will provide these assignments either through the course website, or with explicit instructions.

Grading

Your final grade will come from five components:

20%	Midterm, February 26 th
25%	Final Exam, Tuesday May 3 rd 1:30 – 4:00pm
25%	Homework
20%	Group Paper Assignment, April 25th
10%	Clicker Participation

I retain the right to curve assignments and exams, however, any curve will never harm any student in the class (it must be a pareto improvement over the original allocation.) Letter grades will be assigned to a typical scale with A, 90%-100%, B, 80% - 89%, C, 70% - 79%, D, 60% - 69%, and anything below 60 is an F. + or – letter grades will be assigned if you are within 2% of a grade cutoff.

Exams

There will be a midterm and a final exam. The midterm exam will be held during normal class time. The final exam will be cumulative, but will focus on new material. There are no makeup exams. If you miss the midterm then your final will be worth 45% of your final grade. The final exam cannot be dropped for any reason. Exams will be a mix of multiple choice, short answer, essay questions and analytical problems. Basic and scientific calculators will be allowed; cell phones and calculators with memory are not allowed.

Homework

There will be several graded problem sets and reading summaries throughout the semester. There will be about one assignment a week. Assignments will be posted on D2L and announced in class.

Paper Assignment

In groups of three or four, students will investigate an existing environmental policy that was not discussed in detail in class. By March 4th each group must submit one paragraph identifying the group members and topic. Students will write a paper which identifies the environmental problem, describes the existing environmental policy, and evaluates whether the policy is effective from an economic standpoint. The paper should be approximately 6 - 8 pages in length and no more than 10 (1.5 spacing). Projects are due April 25th. In addition, each student will complete a group evaluation form to be turned in with the project. Late projects will not be accepted.

Clicker Participation

We will use I Clickers in class starting the second week of class. You can earn one participation point per day by answering in-class questions. Some questions may be graded on correctness. I will drop five zero days at the end of the semester. Register your I Clicker + on *mycuinfo.colorado.edu*.

FERPA

In accordance with the law, I am not allowed to ever email your grades to you or to distribute them in any way that is identifiable. As such, I will post grades only on D2L, or you may come to office hours to get your grades. Never ask me to email them or bring them to class; I will not do either.

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services at least two weeks before exams 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>.

Religious Observance Policy

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. If you have a conflict, please contact me the first week of class so that we can make proper arrangements. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior Policy

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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Discrimination and Harassment Policy

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,

pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression 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>.

Honor Code

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/>.

Topics Covered (in rough order):

Fundamentals of Economics

What is Environmental Economics? Ch1

Market Failures Ch 4

Population Ch 6

Sustainability Ch 5

Valuation Ch 2

Valuation Techniques Ch 3

Midterm

Economics of Pollution Ch 14

Stationary Air Pollution Ch 15

Climate Change Ch 16

Transportation Ch 17

Water Pollution Ch 18

Waste & Recycling Ch 19

Development and the Environment Ch 20

Final