

University of Colorado Boulder  
Environmental Economics - ECON 3545-200  
Term B: July 9 - Aug 9, 2019  
MTWRF 11-1235

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**Instructor:** Mark Valkovci

**Email:** [mark.valkovci@colorado.edu](mailto:mark.valkovci@colorado.edu)

**Office Hours:** MTW 1-2pm and by appointment in ECON 306

**Website:** Canvas

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### Course Description

This course introduces the fundamental concepts and methods used in environmental economics to tackle a variety of problems. The theory, application and policy pertaining Earth's scarce resources will be evaluated and compared across several disciplines. As you will learn, economics provides the tools to analyze virtually any problem and recover the most relevant information on its cause and potential remedies. Environmental economics provides one potential route for answering some of the world's most pressing issues, and we will explore several of them.

This course is designed for non-majors and will be less mathematically intensive than other economics courses (see prerequisites). This course will utilize several simple mathematical models but tend to focus on theory and policy application/discussion. If you have questions about the math involved at any point during this course, you may come to my office hours or seek additional help through other CU resources (tutoring, etc.).

**Text:** *There are no required texts for this class.* The class structure is based on the following two books:

*Environmental Economics and Policy* by Tom Tietenberg

*Environmental Economics and Management: Theory, Policy and Applications* by Callan and Thomas

### Prerequisites:

A basic understanding of microeconomics concepts are necessary for this course. Students should have completed ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics) or an equivalent class at another institution. There will be no formal math review as part of this course.

## Grading Breakdown

Participation:	14%
Homework:	16%
Paper Summaries:	20%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	25%

### **Participation:**

This course is discussion based. There will be a mix of powerpoint slides and examples done on the board. There will be several times each class in which I will start a class discussion. As long as students show up on time (and sign-in) and are respectful during the class discussions, they will receive full participation points. One day will be dropped at the end of term.

### **Paper Summaries:**

While there is no required textbook for this class, several academic journal articles will be assigned to read. Each assigned paper will have a corresponding due date (see class schedule for details).

The paper summaries must *be no less* than 1 page, double-spaced (please try not to go longer than 2 pages). An automatic 10% will be deducted from the student's grade for not meeting this requirement (applies to each summary individually). The papers will be available on Canvas or through CU VPN (if you are off-campus). Additional information on paper summaries will be distributed during the first week of class. I will drop the lowest score at the end of term.

### **Homework:**

Homework will be assigned in class and posted on Canvas. Homework is due at 11:59 p.m. on the date listed in the syllabus. Late homework is given a zero. There will no exceptions.

### **Midterm Exam:**

Date: Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

The midterm exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. It is worth 25% of your final grade. *There are no make-ups for missed exams.*

### **Final Exam:**

Date: Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>

The final exam is not comprehensive and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam is worth 25% of your final grade. *There are no make-ups for missed exams.*

## Tentative Schedule:

DATE	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATE
<b>JULY 9<sup>TH</sup></b>	Intro to Environmental economics, basic concepts	Read Syllabus	-
<b>JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> – JULY 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	Property Rights, Externalities and Environmental Problems,	Paper Assignment #1 Homework Assignment #1	Friday 7/12 Saturday 7/13
<b>JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 19<sup>TH</sup></b>	Sustainability, the Two-period model, optimal allocation of pollution	Paper assignment #2 Paper Assignment #3 Homework Assignment #2	Tuesday 7/16 Friday 7/19 Saturday 7/20
<b>JULY 22<sup>ND</sup> – JULY 23<sup>RD</sup></b>	Valuation, Stationary air pollution	Paper Assignment #4	Tuesday 7/23
<b>JULY 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	Review for Midterm	-	-
<b>JULY 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	-	Midterm Exam	-
<b>JULY 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	-	Study-day, go over answers to midterm	-
<b>JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> – AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup></b>	Population, Energy	Paper assignment #5 Paper Assignment #6 Homework Assignment #3	Tuesday 7/30 Friday 8/2 Saturday 8/3
<b>AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> – AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup></b>	Water, non-stationary pollution	Paper assignment #7 Homework Assignment #4	Tuesday 8/6 Thursday 8/8
<b>AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup></b>	Review for Final Exam	-	-
<b>AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup></b>	Final Day of Term B	Final Exam	-

*\*The topics covered in this class are subject to change. I will update all students in class and via email if significant changes are made to the syllabus or class schedule.*

## Cheating

I have a zero-tolerance policy with cheating. Any student caught cheating on an assignment will receive a zero for that assignment and a letter grade reduction at the end of term. If a student is caught cheating on an exam, the student fails the class.

## Electronics

The use of laptops and tablets are allowed. Cell phones, surfing the internet, checking Facebook, Twitter, Stumbleupon..... is not. Any student caught breaking the electronics policy will have their electronics privileges removed for the rest of the term.

## **Make-up Work**

There is no make-up work unless students have university sanctioned absences, serious illness or an emergency that prevents attendance. Student must have documentation that their absence has met the criteria. Having a note that simply says the student attended a medical facility is not sufficient.

## **Additional Information:**

### **Students with Disabilities**

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 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 reasonably and fairly deal 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 at the beginning of the term so we can make proper arrangements.

### **Classroom Behavior Policy**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions.

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, 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 [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_cod](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_cod)

## **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](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273).

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 [honorcode.colorado.edu](http://honorcode.colorado.edu) or <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>

## **Discrimination & 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>.