

University of Colorado
Course Syllabus
ECON 3545-200: Environmental Economics
Summer B 2012

Instructor: Chris McMahan
Office: ECON 313
Email: mcmahanc@colorado.edu
Office Hours: TR 11:00am to 12:00pm and by appointment
Class Time: MTWThF 9:15am - 10:50am
Classroom: ECON 119

Required Textbook:

B.C. Field and M.K. Field, Environmental Economics: an introduction, 5th edition, 2008.

Course Overview:

Approaching the end of the 20th century environmental quality became a major focus of public concern. In response, environmental agencies have blossomed; environmental interest groups advocate at all levels of the political system; and politicians include environmental issues as part of their political agendas. Specialized fields have emerged to allow engineers, scientists, lawyers, and economists to focus their efforts on analyzing and solving environmental problems.

In this course we will continue your economics education by considering the economic approach to analyzing and solving environmental problems. The first section of this course will focus on economic theory with environmental problems. We will examine market outcomes, market failure, the Equimarginal Principle, benefit-cost analysis, present value discounting, the Coase Theorem, pollution taxes, pollution permits, and other types of environmental policy design. In the second section of this course, we will dissect several specific environmental issues by identifying the problem, examining existing policies, and discussing how these policies may be improved.

Course Components:

Homework, Quizzes, and Participation – 15%

- I will regularly assign homework assignments, readings, and in-class quizzes. You will also have opportunities to participate by speaking in class and dropping by office hours.

Exam 1 – 25%

- The first exam will be on **Friday, July 20** and will cover all the information up to that point in class. Exam 1 will contain multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Exam 2 – 25%

- The second exam will be on **Thursday, August 2** and will cover all the information covered since the first exam. Exam 2 will contain multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Team Presentation/Paper – 20%

- The class will be divided into research teams that will identify and analyze an environmental problem. Each team will provide a joint paper and present findings to the class. Guidelines for the group project will be distributed in class.

Final – 15%

- The final will be held on **Friday, August 10**. The final will be comprehensive. It will contain questions related to lecture material and the class presentations. The final will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Grading Summary:

Homework, Quizzes and Participation	15%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Team Presentation/Paper	20%
Final	15%
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	100%

***Notice that nothing will be dropped**

Grading Scale:

<u>Your Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Your Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	≤59%	F

Attendance Policy

You are responsible for all material covered in class. I will lecture on material that is not covered in the text. ALL MATERIAL COVERED IN LECTURES, HOMEWORK/CLASS ASSIGNMENTS, AND ASSIGNED READINGS IS FAIR GAME FOR EXAMS. You will also receive a participation grade that will reflect your attendance. That said, you are not required to be in class. It is up to you to weigh the opportunity cost of coming to class versus the life-long benefit you'll enjoy from learning economics.

Will there be make-up quizzes, exams, or late homework?

No. If you miss anything, you will get a zero.

This is an intensive summer course and I expect you to treat it that way. I do not make exceptions for jobs, birthdays, dates with celebrities, etc. If you have a conflict, you should talk to me the first day of class; however, I will most likely suggest that you drop the course or find a way to reschedule your outside conflict.

Office hours:

My office hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to noon, and by appointment. Office hours are for your benefit. Please use them. If you have a conflict and cannot make office hours, email me and we will set up another time to meet.

Email:

Please be considerate with your use of email. If you email me a question about lectures, quizzes or assignments, I will most likely encourage you to talk to me about it during my office hours. If it is not urgent and I feel the whole class can benefit from the answer, I will address it in the following class or in a mass email. YOU SHOULD ALWAYS USE PROPER EMAIL ETIQUETTE, although I may not ☺. If you are unclear on what constitutes proper email etiquette, ask me... or Google... or outsource your email drafting to India at www.taskseveryday.com.

Disability Policy:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322.

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 semester so we can make proper arrangements.

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; 303-725-2273). 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).