

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

ECON 3545

FALL 2019

Instructor:	Zach Szlendak	
TA:	Payne Hennigan	
Class Meeting:	MWF 3:00-3:50	CLRE 207
Office Hours:	MW 2:00-2:50 & by appointment	ECON 313
TA Office Hours:	Th 11:00-12:00	ECON 309A
Class Website:	Canvas	
Email Address:	Zachary.Szlenak@colorado.edu	
TA Email Address:	Christian.hennigan@colorado.edu	

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.

TEXT

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics by Tom Tietenberg and Lynne Lewis, 10th edition (optional). Additional readings may be assigned that require students to access economic journals. Access is free on campus, via the CU VPN, or through University Libraries E-Journals.

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

Homework	15%
Literature Review	15%
Participation	15%
Quizzes	40%
Final	15%

- Homework:** Homework will be done on Canvas. It will be due before class starts. Homework will either be multiple choice or short answer, the latter will be graded on a check plus/check/check minus system. The lowest homework score will be dropped. Late work is not accepted.
- Literature Review:** 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 reviews will be due on Friday 11/22. **The literature review must cover economic literature.**
- Participation:** Students must be respectful and participate in group discussions (at the group level). Three days will be dropped.
- Quizzes:** There will be 5 quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 10%. Quizzes will be composed of multiple choice questions. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. Quizzes 4 and 5 will each have 2 cumulative questions.
- Final:** The final will be composed of multiple choice questions. The final exam will be 30 cumulative questions.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
8/26	Syllabus Day/Review	10/21	Stationary Air Pollution
8/28	Review	10/23	Climate Change
8/30	Review/intro	10/25	Climate Change
9/2	No Class	10/28	Climate Change
9/4	Market Failures I	10/30	Review & Quiz 3
9/6	Market Failures II	11/1	Transportation
9/9	Sustainability	11/4	Transportation
9/11	Sustainability	11/6	Transportation
9/13	Moral hazards	11/8	Transportation
9/16	Liability	11/11	Water Pollution
9/18	Judgement proofing	11/13	Water Pollution
9/20	Review and quiz	11/15	Review and Quiz 4
9/23	Valuation	11/18	Development and the Environment
9/25	Valuation	11/20	Development and the Environment
9/27	Valuation	11/22	Development and the Environment
9/30	Valuation	11/25	No Class
10/2	Economics of Pollution	11/27	No Class
10/4	Economics of Pollution	11/29	No Class
10/7	Economics of Pollution	12/2	Waste and Recycling
10/9	Economics of Pollution	12/4	Waste and Recycling
10/11	Review & Quiz 2	12/6	Review & Quiz 5
10/14	Stationary Air pollution	12/9	Innovation
10/16	Stationary Air Pollution	12/11	TBD
10/18	Stationary Air Pollution	12/18	Final Exam (7:30-10:00 PM)

CHEATING

Cheating 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 took reasonable steps to prevent being cheated off of. Students will also be reported to the Honor Council for further disciplinary action.

ELECTRONICS

In order to use a laptop in class you must seek prior approval with myself or the TA. If a student is caught browsing the internet or doing other work not related to the class, 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.

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

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). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at 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 they 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>.