

ECON 4545 Syllabus  
Environmental Economics  
Summer 2019

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Office Hours: MW 11-12 PM  
Email Address: alexander.m.hill@colorado.edu  
Lecture: MTWThF 9:15-10:50 AM ECON 119

**Textbook and Other Materials**

Kolstad, Charles. Environmental Economics. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

**Course Description and Goals**

This is an advanced course of microeconomics with a particular focus on environmental questions. The course will be split into roughly four areas:

- Microeconomic foundations of Environmental Economics (Chapters 3-5)
- Constructing Environmental Demand (Chapters 6-10)
- Regulation (Chapters 11-13,15-16)
- Special Environmental Topics (Chapters 2,20)

On the first day of the course, you will be placed into groups of 4-5 students. This will be your learning group for the Summer. You will be sitting together for the rest of the semester in the classroom, doing homework together, and studying together. Each class will be split into modules consisting of a lecture or video clip, lasting typically between 15-20 minutes, and a discussion/problem solving period of 5-10 minutes.

Why are we doing this? A substantial and growing literature suggests students learn significantly more from interacting with each other, whether they are the one teaching or listening, than they do sitting passively through one hour 35 minute lectures. My intuition on this is there is an effect from what you are learning from others, the ability to teach something, and splitting up the lectures into manageable pieces. Additionally, I hope this makes studying for the quizzes easier, as it organizes the material for you.

The grading scale for this class is as follows:

## Grade Scale

A	92.5-100
A-	89.5-92.49
B+	86.5-89.49
B	82.5-86.49
B-	79.5-82.49
C+	76.5-79.49
C	72.5-76.49
C-	69.5-72.49
D+	66.5-69.49
D	62.5-66.49
D-	59.5-62.49
F	<59.49

## Grade Determinants

Quizzes	30 percent
Final Exam	25 percent
Group Grade	20 percent
Problem Sets	25 percent

**Quizzes:** These will be short, mini exams at the beginning of each Monday, starting with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday. There are 4 total, the lowest of which you can drop. This means, if you miss one for any reason (medical or family emergency, overslept, etc), there will not be any makeup exams. This will count as your drop. You must take the final exam.

**Problem Sets:** You will have 8 problem sets due and these are to be turned in as a group (one per group). All group members are required to work on them together, as opposed to splitting up the problems amongst yourselves. Your group will turn in one assignment in class on the due date.

**Group Grade and Leader Bonuses:** When you submit your assessment of your group members at the end of the semester, you grade them 0-20 based on how much they contributed to the group. Their grade should reflect how much they contributed to problem sets, how helpful they were studying for quizzes, and how much they contributed during in class discussions and assignments. If there is an outlier, I will drop it.

You will also identify which person in your group should receive the leader bonus (you can't give it to yourself). The person with the highest number of votes will receive an additional 3 percent bonus on their final grade (if there is a tie you each split the bonus). The leader bonus should go to the person in the group who went above and beyond in planning study and problem set sessions, helping others, and generally being a great groupmate.

**Extra credit:** There is no extra credit available under any circumstance. A class-wide curve may be applied to all students' final grades depending on class performance. Do not count on a curve, however, as I expect to either not give one or, if I do, it will be very low.

## Recommendations for Success

1. Print out slides for class. I talk fast and it will be very easy for you to write down what I am saying if you have the main points already down.
2. Read the book chapters that are assigned to each chapter before class.
3. Come to office hours early, at least once. If you fall behind, it's hard to catch up.

## Office Hours and Email

I strongly encourage all of you to attend my office hours if you are having any problems with the material covered in class or want to chat about economics, job markets, politics, etc. I have a very open door. If you are unable to attend office hours, I check my email several times a day and, in most cases, will respond within a few hours. However, give me 24 hours to respond before emailing again. If you email me over the weekend, give me until end of day Monday. Please do not email me about information that is on the syllabus. I will not respond. Additionally, I will not give out grade information over email or in front of other students, as this is in violation of university policy. I am also not allowed to discuss your grade information with your parents without your written consent.

Cellphones: Please have your cellphone away, including during group discussion periods. While I understand and appreciate the desire to post photos to Instagram of my class with captions like "Best Prof Ever," please wait until class is over to do so.

### **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 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. In this class, if you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so we can make the proper arrangements. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](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. 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 at

[http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](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](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion) and will receive a failing grade for the course. 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/>.

**Syllabus Disclaimer:** The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary.