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Course Syllabus  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
Economics 4545-001  
Fall 2008

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Professor: Nicholas E. Flores  
Professor's Office: Economics Rm. 212  
Voice: 303 492-8145  
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Office Hours: Monday 1 – 2 p.m., Friday 9 – 10 a.m., and by Appointment

Classroom: Economics 119  
Class Meeting Time: MWF 11 - 11:50

#### Required Textbook

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Tom Tietenberg and Lynne Lewis

Note you can either purchase this book in hard copy or purchase as a CourseSmart eTextbook (electronic book).

#### Course Overview

In this course we will continue your economics education by considering the economic approach to analyzing and solving environmental problems. In addition to learning about the methods that economists use to analyze environmental problems and issues, you will be challenged to frame problems in economic terms and propose solutions to these problems.

#### Prerequisites

To be enrolled in this course, you should have Economics 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomics) or an equivalent course. Simple analytical models will be used throughout the course. You should be comfortable with basic economic models of optimization as well as calculus. If your transcript does not reflect the prerequisite, you need to verify with me that you have successfully completed an equivalent course.

#### Course Components

- Lecture: With help from you and your fellow students, we will make class lectures an active learning experience. This means you will be required to discuss lecture material in class (i.e. you will have to think on your feet).

- In-class Exercises: Some topics lend themselves to in-class exercises as another way of learning. These exercises will sometimes involve the entire class working together and at other times small groups or individuals working on problems.
- Homework: There will be regular homework assignments that will be turned in and graded by me.
- Readings & Briefs: I will provide readings in addition to the required textbook readings. For some of these readings I will require you to prepare a brief that summarizes and analyzes the reading.
- Team Project: The class will be divided into research teams that will then identify and analyze an environmental problem. The team will provide a joint paper and present findings to the class.
- Midterm Examinations and Finals: There will be two midterm exams and a cumulative final. Make-up exams are not a possibility. If you have a legitimate and verifiable reason for missing a midterm, test reweighting can be used to adjust your final grade. Lacking a legitimate and verifiable reason for missing a midterm will result in a zero for the missed midterm. The final exam is mandatory with no exceptions.

#### Evaluation

Homework	15%
Briefs	10%
Team Project	10%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final	25%

#### Attendance Policy

Daily attendance will be taken for each class. You must attend a minimum of 80% of the lectures in order to pass the course. If you miss more than 20% of the lectures, you will receive an automatic F. A sign-in sheet will be circulated daily. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have signed in for each class.

## Special Accommodations

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, Willard 322, and [www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices](http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices).

## Classroom Behavior

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, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, 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>.

## Course Topics

1. Do you remember the basics from Intermediate Micro?
2. What distinguishes the economic approach to environmental problems from other approaches?
3. Overview of some pressing environmental problems (Chapter 1 ENRE).
4. Economic concepts and environmental decision making (Chapter 2 ENRE).
5. Economic methods for valuing the environment (Chapter 3 ENRE).
6. Environmental problems as market failure (Chapter 4 ENRE).
7. Environmental problems in a dynamic framework (Chapter 5 ENRE).
8. Population and the challenges it poses for the future (Chapter 6 ENRE).
9. Economic approaches to pollution control (Chapter 15 - 20 ENRE)
10. Economics of environmental justice (Chapter 21 ENRE).

## Important Dates

August 25 – First Day of Class

September 1 – Labor Day

September 24 – Midterm 1

October 29 – Midterm 2

November 17, 19, 21 – Team Project Presentations

Week of November 24 – Fall Break

December 16 – Final Exam, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.