

University of Colorado
Department of Economics
ECON 3545
Summer 2006

Instructor: Scott Holladay

Office: ECON 306

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Office hours: M,W,F 11:00-12:00, and by appointment.

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Website: <http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~holladaj/3545>

Class: M-F 9:15-10:50

Room: ECON 117

Introduction:

The subject of environmental policy is often one of great emotion, controversy, and confusion. Historically, sorting through the emotion and confusion of debates to decide on the best course of action has been a challenge for the public and government officials alike. The result, especially over the course of the past 30 years, has been a significant increase in the use of economics as a tool to help guide public policy with respect to environmental issues. This course is an introduction to the fundamental theory and methodology used by economists to help guide policy makers. We will begin the course with a quick review of microeconomics principles and move quickly into environmental applications covering topics such as the equimarginal principle, market failure, benefit cost analysis, efficiency vs. equity, the Coase Theorem and different types of environmental policy design. At the end of the term, we will review several specific environmental issues, identifying a problem, examining existing policies, and discussing how these policies could be improved. By the end of the course, you should have a better understanding of how to design an effective environmental policy and you should be capable of following and understanding these issues in the news.

Textbook: B.C. Field and M.K. Field, *Environmental Economics*, 4th edition, 2005.

Suggested Text: Bjorn Lomborg. *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. Paperback ed, 2001.

Assignments:

-Quizzes: problems from the text, short answer and multiple choice questions. Quizzes will be in class and take home.

-Annotated bibliography: pick 4-6 articles on a specific environmental economics issue. Cite the article in the proper format and write a one paragraph summary of the articles methodology and conclusion. The articles must come from reliable sources. We will discuss in class how to use library resources to find appropriate articles.

-Paper: You will be required to write a paper 6-8 pages in length describing a particular environmental problem using the tools of environmental economics. You will be required to meet with me several times throughout the semester to approve the topic you pick and the sources you use. Most students chose to do their paper and annotated bibliography on the same topic.

- Exams: There will be a cumulative final exam in the last week of class covering material from readings, lecture and the text book. It will be similar in format to the quizzes given throughout the semester.

Grading:

Quiz 1	(7/17)	10%
Annotated Bibliography	(7/21)	15%
Quiz 2	(7/24)	10%
Quiz 3	(7/31)	10%
Paper	(8/8)	30%
Final exam	(8/11)	25%

Remember all dates are tentative.

Notes:

-The Economics Department will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students must notify their instructors no later than the first week of term, and provide documentation of the disability obtained from the Disabilities Services Office located in Willard Hall, Room 322.

-We will make reasonable accommodations for students who have conflicts between religious observance dates and course examinations or assignments. Please talk to me at the beginning of the semester, if you think you may require such accommodation. For university policies on this and on other things, see www.colorado.edu/policies/index.html.

-For university policies on cheating and plagiarism, and the university honor code, see www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode

-For a link to the course website go to: <http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~holladaj>