

University of Colorado
Course Syllabus
ECON 3545-200: Environmental Economics
Summer B 2010

Instructor: Chris McMahan
Office: ECON 306
Email: mcmahanc@colorado.edu
Office Hours: TR 11:00 to 12:00, before exams, and by appointment
Class Time: MTWThF 9:15 AM - 10:50 AM
Classroom: BESC 185

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, 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 and Quizzes – 20%

- I will regularly assign homework assignments, readings, and in-class quizzes.

Team Presentation/Paper – 25%

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

Midterm – 25%

- I will give one midterm on **Friday, July 16** that will cover all the information up to that point in class. The midterm may contain multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

Final – 30%

- The final will be held on **Friday, August 6**. It will be comprehensive but will focus on the more recent material. The final will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

Participation – 5%:

- You can participate in a variety of ways including talking in class, talking to me after class, and coming to office hours. Participation points will be distributed according to the following scale:

Are you even in my class?	0%
Below average participation	1%
Average participation	2%
Above average participation	3%
Super hero participation	4%
Probably not relevant	5%

Grading Summary:

Homework and Quizzes	20%
Team Paper/Presentation	25%
Midterm	25%
Final	30%
Participation	5%
	105%

***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

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.

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, right before exams, 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 ☺.

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).