

Issues in Environmental

Econ 240



Fall 2017

Instructor: Matthew Elmer, PhD Candidate

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Office: Clark C 322

Office Hours: MWF 11:00am-12:00pm

Term date: August 21 – December 8

Location: BSB 105 (12:00) Eddy 1 (1:00)

Class Website (Canvas): <http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx>

Course Description

Economics is the study of how society allocates goods and services in a world with scarce resources. Environmental Economics uses the core principles of economics to understand the management of environmental resources in a market based system. This discipline works to identify ways to improve upon market outcomes and to create effective mechanisms to regulate economic activity to better balance economic and environmental goals. This course will explore the theories, methodologies, and application of environmental economics to real-world environmental issues. Along these lines, this course will incorporate political-economic approaches to better understand the current state of environmental management at the local and global scale.

Course Objectives

Throughout the semester students will:

- Learn the basic concepts and tools of environmental economics
- Think critically about current environmental problems using an economic lens
- Develop writing and communicate skills relevant to environmental economics and policy

Course Topics

- The role of economics in environmental decision-making
- The basics of markets and market failures
- Valuing the costs and benefits of environmental protection
- Environmental policy tools and their assessment
- Applications to particular pollution issues
- Economics of renewable resources
- Economics of growth and the environment: development and sustainability

Prerequisites

This course has no prerequisites.

Note: You may not receive credit for both *Econ 240* and *Arec 240*

Textbook

The required textbook is **Economics and the Environment (7th edition) by Eban S. Goodstein and Stephen Polasky**. You can purchase a printed or electronic version of the book from the CSU bookstore (<http://www.bookstore.colostate.edu/home.aspx>).

ISBN (paperback): 978-1-118-53972-9

ISBN (e-text): 978-1-118-80554-1

Additional Course Material

Additional class material including lecture notes, readings, videos, presentations, news articles, assignments, and discussion posts, will all be available on Canvas through the course webpage.

Assignments and Grading

Assignment	Points	Frequency	Total Points	Percentage
Quizzes	10	(10)	100	20%
Homework	50	(2)	100	20%
Writing Assignment	100	(1)	100	20%
Exams	100	(2)	200	40%

Total	500	100%
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Note: There will be 12 quizzes and the lowest 2 scores will be dropped.

Your grade for this course is based on weekly quizzes (12), homework (2), a writing assignment (1), and exams (2).

- **Quizzes (20%):** Each week there will be 10 questions covering material presented that week.
- **Writing Assignment (20%):** You will have one writing assignment at the end of the term that is expected to be about 3-5 pages long. The topic and detailed expectations will be provided in a separate document once assigned.
- **Homework (20%):** You will have 2 homework assignments throughout the term, one before each exam. These assignments will focus on calculations, graphs, and key concepts from all chapters on the exam, intended to help students prepare.
- **Exams (40%):** You will be given two exams, a midterm and a final. Each exam covers half of the course material. There will be a review sheet and in-class review prior to each exam.

Note: A detailed course schedule with assignment due dates is provided separately

Course Grading Criteria

Grade	Points	Percentage	Assessment
A	465 - 500	93 - 100%	<i>Excellent</i>
A-	450 - 464	90 - 92.99%	
B+	435 - 449	87 - 89-99%	<i>Above Average</i>
B	415 - 434	83 - 86.99%	
B-	400 - 414	80 - 82.99%	
C+	385 - 399	77 - 79.99%	<i>Average</i>
C	365 - 384	73 - 76.99%	

C-	350 - 364	70 – 72.99%	
D	300 - 349	60 – 69.99%	<i>Below Average</i>
F	0 - 300	0 – 59.99%	<i>Failing</i>

Total Course Time Estimates

Assignment	Hours
Lectures	40
Reading/Studying	30
Quizzes	20
Homework	20
Writing Assignment	20
Exams	20
Total	150

Late Work Policy

No late work will be accepted apart from cases of documented medical emergencies or conflicts with University sanctioned activities. If there is a personal emergency or a conflict with turning in an assignment please try to communicate that with me before the assignment is due.

Academic Integrity

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity [Policies and Guiding Principles](#) as found in the General Catalog and the [Student Conduct Code](#). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. If you have any questions about what is permissible, please ask.

CSU Honor Pledge

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in

this course. *While you will not be required to affirm the honor pledge*, you are expected to affirm the following statement for each assignment:

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's [Practicing Academic Integrity](#).

Department Statement on Copyright

Please do not share material from this course in online, print or other media. Course material is the property of the instructor who developed the course. Materials authored by third parties and used in the course are also subject to copyright protections. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law and the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face disciplinary or legal action.

Classroom Conduct

Students are required to act respectfully in the classroom at all times, any disruptive behavior that inhibits fellow-student learning will not be permitted and will constitute a one day removal from lecture/recitation; a second offense will require a formal meeting with the student, instructor, and TA. Such behavior includes holding conversations during lecture/recitation, any unauthorized cell phone, laptop, or tablet use, or other behavior which detracts from the class.

Resources for Disabled Students

Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the student's responsibility to disclose any learning disabilities. Please contact me if a special accommodation is required. To request accommodations students should contact Resources for Disabled Students (RDS) at (970) 491-6385 or go to <http://rds.colostate.edu>. Documentation of disability is required and the RDS office will assist in this process.

Econ 240: Issues in Environmental Economics

Class Schedule Fall 2017

Week	Date	Section	Readings	Assignments (due date)
1	8/21 - 8/25	Introduction	Syllabus	None
		Environmental Economics	Chapter 1	
2	8/28 – 9/1	Core Principles of Economics and Perspectives in Economics	Canvas	Quiz 1 (9/4 11:59p)
3	9/6 – 9/8	NO CLASS 9/4	Chapter 2	Quiz 2 (9/11 11:59p)
		Ethics and Economics		
4	9/11 – 9/15	Externalities and Public Goods	Chapter 3	Quiz 3 (9/18 11:59p)
5	9/18 – 9/22	The Efficiency Standard	Chapter 4	Quiz 4 (9/25 11:59p)
6	9/25 – 9/29	The Safety Standard	Chapter 7	Quiz 5 (10/2 11:59p)
		The Sustainability Standard	Chapter 8	
7	10/2 – 10/6	Measuring the Benefits of Environmental Protection	Chapter 5	Quiz 6 (10/9 11:59p) Homework 1 (10/12 11:59p)
		Measuring the Costs of Environmental Protection	Chapter 6	
8	10/9 – 10/13	Measuring Sustainability	Chapter 9	
		Midterm Exam Review 10/11	Chapters 1-9	
Midterm Exam (10/13)				
9	10/16 – 10/20	Natural Resources	Chapter 10	Quiz 7 (10/23 11:59p)
10	10/23 – 10/27	Consumption and Welfare	Chapter 11	Quiz 8 (10/30 11:59p)
11	10/30 – 11/3	Political Economy of Regulation	Chapter 12	Quiz 9 (11/6 11:59p)

12	11/6 – 11/10	Incentive Based Regulation	Chapter 15 & 16	Quiz 10 (11/13 11:59p)
13	11/13 – 11/17	Promoting Clean Technology	Chapter 17	Quiz 11 (11/27 11:59p) Writing Assignment (12/8 11:59p)
Fall Break (11/18 – 11/26)				
15	11/27 – 12/1	Poverty and the Environment	Chapter 19	Quiz 12 (12/4 11:59p) Homework 2 (12/8 11:59p)
		Environmental Policy in Poor Countries	Chapter 20	
16	12/4 - 12/8	The Economics of Global Agreements	Chapter 21	
		Final Exam Review 12/8	Chapters 10-21, skip 13, 14, 18	
Final Exam (See University Schedule)				

NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change.