

ECON/AREC 240-001

Issues in Environmental Economics

Instructor

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Email is my preferred method of communication

Office: Clark C 311D

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30-11AM

Term Date : August 20, 2018 - December 16, 2018

Class Website (Canvas): <http://colostate.instructure.com>

**Note: all email correspondence will be through your CSU rams email address.*

Meeting Times:

ECON 240-001: MWF 11:00 – 11:50AM in Stadium 1208

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.

Topics covered:

- The role of economics in environmental decision-making
- The basics of markets and market failures
- Externalities, public goods, and open access resources
- Valuing the benefits of environmental protection
- Valuing the costs of environmental protection
- Efficiency criteria for evaluating environmental costs
- Policy tools (controls, taxes, permits) and their assessment
- Applications to particular pollution issues of interest
- Economics of renewable resources: fisheries and forests
- Economics of growth and the environment: development and sustainability

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should:

- Understand the basic concepts and tools of environmental economic
- Be able to think critically about current environmental problems using an economic lens
- Have developed writing and communicate skills relevant to environmental economics and policy

Course Prerequisites

This course has no prerequisites.

Note: You may not receive credit for both ECON 240 and AREC 240

Required Course Materials

Textbook (required): Eban S. Goodstein and Stephen Polasky, Economics and the Environment, 8th edition. You can purchase a printed or electronic version of the book from the CSU bookstore (<http://www.bookstore.colostate.edu/home.aspx>).

ISBN (paperback): 978-1-119-36986-8

ISBN (e-text): 978-1-119-39774-8

Supplemental 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

There are 500 points available in the course. Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions, as shown below:

Assignment*	Points per Assignment	Frequency	GRADE POINTS	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Homework	(50)	* (2)	= 100	20%
Quizzes	(10)	* (10)	= 100	20%
Writing Assignment	(100)	* (1)	= 100	20%
Exams	(100)	* (2)	= 200	40%
TOTAL			= 500	= 100%

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas.



Course Grading Criteria

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage Grade</i>	<i>Equivalent Points</i>	<i>Indicates</i>
A+	98-100	490 and above	
A	92-97.99	460 – 489	Excellent
A-	90-91.99	450 – 459	
B+	88-89.99	440 - 449	
B	82-87.99	410 – 439	Above Average
B-	80-81.99	400 – 409	
C+	78-79.99	390 - 399	
C	70-77.99	350 – 389	Average
D	60-69	300 - 349	Below Average
F	0-59	299 or lower	Failure

There is +/- grading in this class.

Class Participation

This course is designed to engage you through class discussions on the topics covered in the course materials. It is important that you participate in class discussions to facilitate learning by other students and gain exposure to different viewpoints of other students in the class. It is therefore necessary to participate throughout the week in the discussion questions, not wait until the last minute to post on discussion topics.

Homework (100 points)

Throughout the semester you will have 2 homework assignments, each assignment is worth 50 points. These assignments will focus on definitions, calculations, graphs, concepts and writing. These assignments will help you prepare for examples and gain a deeper understanding of the materials presented in class.

Quizzes (100 points)

Each week there will be a quiz of 10 questions, with each quiz being worth 10 points covering material presented that week.

Writing Assignment (100 points)

You will have one writing assignment at the end of the term that is expected to be about 3-5 pages long (approximately 1,000-2,000 words, Times New Roman 12 point font). The topic and detailed expectations will be provided in a separate document once assigned. The assignment will test your ability to write using grammar, mechanics, formatting, vocabulary, and documentation appropriate for economics. You will need to analyze the material, evaluate it from the mindset of an economist and recognize conflicting issues. Through this process you will



be able to effectively discuss and assess environmental issues from an economic standpoint and be able to apply your knowledge and reasoning to make suggestions and recommendations. You will be required to submit an electronic copy to VeriCite, an online plagiarism detection program. There will be more information about this process provided later through Canvas.

- Keep in mind that plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. As per university policy **Academic honesty is imperative.** *Any student or student organization found to have committed or to have attempted to commit misconduct is subject to disciplinary sanction. For example, academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession or disposition of academic materials, falsification, or facilitation of acts of dishonesty. Specific procedures for cases of academic dishonesty are also described in the Academic Integrity Policy in the General Catalog, the Graduate Student Bulletin, the Faculty Manual, or the Honor Code of the Professional Veterinary School as applicable. For more information, please use the link provided on Canvas.*

GT Pathways Writing Requirement

This course is an approved GT Pathways course which allows students to transfer the credit of this course to another Colorado higher education institution. To help eliminate the guesswork of transferring general education course credits, Colorado has developed a statewide guaranteed transfer (GT) program. To satisfy this requirement, 25% of students' grades must be attributed to written work. This course satisfies this requirement through the writing assignment, discussions, as well as some short answers questions on the exams.

GT pathways writing requirement:

At least 25 percent of the course grade must be based on written work that satisfies the following:

- *At least one writing assignment must be an out-of-class piece of written work.*
- *In-class written work, such as on exams, must be in the form of essays.*

Expectations of written work include students demonstrating:

- *The ability to convey a theme or argument clearly and coherently.*
- *The ability to analyze critically and to synthesize the work of others.*
- *The ability to acquire and apply information from appropriate sources, and reference sources appropriately.*
- *Competence in standard written English.*

Exams (200 points)

You will be given two exams, a midterm and a final, each counting for 100 points of your final grade. Each exam covers half of the course materiel. Although the exams are not cumulative in the strict sense, topics from throughout the course may carry over into new material, meaning that exam questions may include elements for earlier parts of the course. There are no early or make up exams given with exceptions for University approved activities or documented illness or family emergencies. A student arriving late to an exam session will be allowed to take the exam in the remaining time, so long as the student does not arrive after other examinees have



left. In case of documented illness, family emergency or university-excused absence, you may reschedule an exam within 5 days (+/-) of the exam date.

Any student who wants to challenge the validity of a test answer, and who is not satisfied with the instructor's preliminary explanation, may submit in writing (email is OK) the reason(s) a disallowed answer might be considered correct within one week of receiving that exam back.

Extra Credits (up to 30 points)

Each week there will be an in-class activity and award 3 points based on the participation.

Expectations of Instructors

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates listed in the schedule. With that said, we take our role as your instructors very seriously, and, in fact, we care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience.

To that end, it is our commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. If, however, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times we have listed here, we will keep you informed of our progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as we can.

Activity	Time Estimates
Lectures	3 hours
Reading	3 hours
Complete Assignments	2 hours
Prepare for Exams	1 hours
TOTAL=	9 hours

Course Withdrawal Policy: Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must submit a request directly to Division of Continuing Education ([CSU Online](http://www.online.colostate.edu)). For complete information, please visit their website at <http://www.online.colostate.edu/faqs/policies/drop-policy.dot>

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

I take academic integrity seriously. **Accidental plagiarism is not a valid excuse.** The CSU writing center defines plagiarism this way:

“Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious.



Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding credit be given where credit is due."

—Writing Guides: Understanding Plagiarism.

<http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/researchsources/understandingplagiarism>

Academic Dishonesty could result in expulsion from the university. Each instance of plagiarism, classroom cheating, and other types of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the principles published in the [CSU General Catalog](#). The instructor reserves the right to assess penalties of zero grades on the assignment/exam or a failing grade in the course or a recommendation for expulsion or any combination of the three as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Of course, academic integrity means more than just avoiding plagiarism and cheating. It also involves doing your own reading and studying. It includes class attendance, careful consideration of all class materials, and engagement with the class and your fellow students. Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Each exam and assignment you submit, you are implicitly signing and acknowledging that you have followed the CSU student honor pledge:

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

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

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 the instructor if a special accommodation is required. To request accommodations, students should contact Resources for Disabled Students 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.

Technical Help

Canvas technical support: <http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/student-resources.aspx>

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 and instructor. Such behavior includes holding conversations during lecture, any unauthorized cell phone, laptop, or tablet use, or other behavior which detracts from the class.

Accommodations and Tutoring Options

- 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 the instructor if a special accommodation is required. To request accommodations, students should contact Resources for Disabled Students 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.
- Free Tutoring: Free tutoring is available for this course through the Arts & Sciences Tutoring Program. The program is located in the Russell George Great Hall in The Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT), and runs 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., on Sunday-Thursday evenings during the academic year. No appointment is necessary and all students are welcome. For more information and tutoring schedule, please visit: <http://tilt.colostate.edu/learning/tutoring/artSciences.cfm>
- Study Group: Attending this FREE program will help you improve your understanding of course material while learning effective study techniques. All study groups are drop-in, so students can come as many times as they want. For more information and study group schedule, please visit: <http://tilt.colostate.edu/learning/tutoring/studyGroups/index.cfm>
- Writing Center: Help with written assignments can be found at the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.colostate.edu>).
- Canvas technical support: <http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/student-resources.aspx>

Title IX

CSU's Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as "Responsible Employees." This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As "Responsible Employees," faculty may refer students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student and campus safety. Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation



is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources: Emergency Response 911, Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350, Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425. For counseling support and assistance, please see the CSU Health Network, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/> . The Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential student resource that does not have a reporting requirement: <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.

Office Hours

Cancellation of any office hours or appointments will be notified via a notice on my door, announcement in class or by email. If you wish to see me in person outside of office hours, please make an appointment by email. I encourage students to ask me short questions by email, as this method can be quicker than an appointment if the query is straightforward.

Disclaimer

All of the information in this course syllabus is subject to change when deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified verbally in class, via postings on the class homepage, or by email if such changes occur.