

Econ 240

Issues in Environmental Economics

Professor: Sammy Zahran, PhD

Email: sammy.zahran@colostate.edu

Office: C-325 Clark Building

Office Hours: T&R 2:00-3:00 pm, (or by appointment)

Office Phone: 970.491.1877

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to environmental issues from an economic perspective. Issues examined include: environmental valuation and risk assessment; property rights, externalities, and environmental problems; sustainable development; population growth; natural resource and environmental economics; common-pool resources; air pollution; climate change; water pollution; the economics of hazardous waste; and development economics, poverty and the environment.

Class: 12:30 -1:45PM, T&R, Gifford 146

Prerequisite: N/A

Credit Hours: 3

Text: *Environmental Economics and Policy*, Addison-Wesley, 6th Edition

Authors: Tietenberg, T., and Lewis, L.; **ISBN-13:** 978-0321599490

Course Objectives:

1. Inventory the concepts, theories, and analytic methods of environmental economics.
2. Learn various revealed and stated preference methods of environmental valuation.
3. Learn to intelligently analyze and interpret economic and environmental data.
4. Learn the public policy tools developed by economists to mitigate environmental problems and manage environmental risks.

Course Evaluation:

The final grade in this course is determined by performance on three exams, problem sets and quantitative technique analysis assignments, and environmental economic fact summaries.

Exams

Three exams are required. Exams cover assigned readings, lectures, films, and distributed materials. Exams are a combination of multiple choice questions, essay questions, and quantitative exercises. Each exam is worth 25 percent of the final grade.

Problems Sets and Quantitative Exercises

Five quantitative assignments are required. Assignments involve quantitative analysis of environmental and economic data. Problem sets introduce students to basic econometric techniques for evaluating relationships between environmental, economic, and policy variables. Each assignment is worth 3 percent of the final grade.

Environmental Economics in Media

Students are required to find and summarize three articles that appear in the mainstream press on environmental economics. Mainstream media outlets include the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Globe and Mail, the Economist magazine, the Boston Globe, and the Washington Post, to name a few. Written summaries should be at least four full paragraphs in length, detailing (where possible) methodologies of data collection and analysis, and the environmental economic implications of the story. Staple your summary to the article summarized. Acts of plagiarism will result in a score of zero. Each summary is worth 2 percent of the final grade.

Expected Effort (Weekly)

Attend class (3 hours), reading assignments (2 hours), and problem sets/test (3 hours).

Letter Grade Distribution:

>= 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	<= 59.99	F

Course Policies:

Academic Integrity

This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. As per university policy “Any student found responsible for having engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to an academic penalty and/or University disciplinary action.” (General Catalog 2014-2015, Section 1.6.). Any academic dishonesty in this course may result in a grade of “F” for the course and may be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. Please beware that the General Catalog identifies the following examples of academic dishonesty: cheating in classroom, plagiarism, unauthorized possession or disposition of academic materials, falsification, and facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is de-

defined as: “Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one’s own without proper acknowledgement. Examples include a submission of purchased research papers as one’s own work; paraphrasing and/or quoting material without properly documenting the source.” (General Catalog 2014-2015, Section 1.6.).

Title IX Statement

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/>. And, the Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential student resource that does not have a reporting requirement and that can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

If you require special accommodation to complete course requirements, please provide documentation and verification from the office of Resources for Disabled Students (<http://rds.colostate.edu>).

Course Structure:

WK 1: 08.23 to 08.25 Valuing the Environment: Concepts (Chapters 1 & 2)

WK2: 08.30 to 09.01 Valuing the Environment: Methods (Chapter 3)

WK 3: 09.06 to 09.08 Property Rights, Externalities, and Sustainable Development (Chapters 4 & 5)

WK 4: 09.13 to 09.15 Population Economics (Chapter 6)

WK 5: 09.20 to 09.22 Population and Natural Resource Economics (Chapters 6 & 7)

WK 6: 09.27 to 09.27 **Exam I**

WK 7: 10.04 to 10.06 Energy Economics and Policy (Chapter 8)

WK 8: 10.11 to 10.13 Water and Land Economics (Chapters 9 & 10)

WK 9: 10.18 to 10.20 Water and Land Economics (Chapters 9 & 10)

WK 10: 10.25 to 10.27 Common-Pool Resources: Fisheries and Commercial Species (Chapter 13)

WK 11: 11.01 to 11.03 **Exam II**

WK 12: 11.08 to 11.10 Environmental Economics: An Overview (Chapter 14)

WK 13: 11.15 to 11.17 Air and Water Pollution (Chapters 15 & 18)

WK 14: 11.22 to 11.24 Fall Break

WK 15: 11.29 to 12.01 Climate Change (Chapter 16)

Wk 16: 12.06 to 12.08 Development, Poverty, and Environmental Sustainability (Chapters 20 & 21)

Wk 17: 12.13 to 12.15 **Exam III**