

**Issues in Environmental Economics**  
**Econ 240**  
**Fall 2011**  
**Section IDs 63514**

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

### **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.

### **Required Text**

Tietenberg, Tom and Lynne Lewis. 2010. Environmental Economics and Policy, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Boston, MA: Addison-Wesley

### **Course Objectives**

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

### **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 Economic Facts**

You are required to find and summarize five articles that appear in the mainstream media on environmental economics. By mainstream media we mean reputable newspapers and magazines like the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Globe and Mail, the Economist magazine, the Boston Globe, the Financial Times, and the Washington Post, to name a few. Written summaries should be at least three full paragraphs in length, detailing (where possible) methodologies of data collection and analysis, and the economic implications of the article. 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.

## Grade Scale

A+	96-100 points	A	90-96 points
A-	89 points	B+	87-88 points
B	80-86 points	B-	79 points
C+	77-78 points	C	70-76 points
D	60-69 points	F	less than 60 points

## Plagiarism Statement

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. 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. 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.”

## Tentative 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