

Environmental Economics - Economics 579

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Office hours: Wednesday 1.00-2.00 pm, with additional hours based on discussions with students.

Course Description

This course will introduce to the field of environmental and natural resource economics, with a focus on economic analysis, aimed at making economic analysis and reasoning accessible to non-economists.

The following textbook will be used for this course:

Tietenberg, Tom. 2006. *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, Seventh Edition*. Boston: Pearson Education.

You may be able to use an earlier edition and save some money.

For this class, you are required to turn in homework assignments (worth a total of 10%), and write two papers (worth 40% and 50%). Each paper should be at least 2,500 words in length, and should show your reading and understanding of the economic literature related to the topic of your choice. One of the papers should be about ‘Climate Change’ or ‘Water’. The other paper can be about any topic of your choice, but cannot be similar to the first paper.

I expect each of you to come and see me during office hours, particularly to discuss your paper topics, as they are the core of the learning in this course. I realize that some of you may find it difficult to be physically present, due to other activities. In this case, email exchanges are adequate substitutes.

The due dates for all class activities along with the weightings of the assignment in the final grade are as follows:

Assignment	Points	Due date
Homework assignments	10%	Within one week
First paper	40%	October 31
Second paper	50%	December 14
Total	100%	

Written assignments must be turned in by email by 5.00 pm on the due date.

Class schedule

Lecture 1 (Aug 27). Introduction to basic environmental and economic concepts. Tietenberg Chapter 1 and Mathur handout posted on Blackboard.

Lecture 2 (Sep 3). Valuing the Environment. Tietenberg Chapters 2, 3.

Lecture 3 (Sep 10). Externalities and Sustainable Development. Tietenberg Chapters 4, 5.

Lecture 4 (Sep 17). Sustainable Development; Economics of Pollution Control. Chapter 5, 15

Lecture 5 (Sep 24) Renewable and Non-renewable resources. Chapter 7,

Lecture 6 (Oct 1) Energy and Global Climate Change, Chapters 8, 17

Lecture 7 (Oct 8) Water Chapters 10, 19

Lecture 8 (Oct 15) Agriculture Chapter 11

Lecture 9 (Oct 22) Forests and deforestation Chapter 12

Lecture 10 (Oct 29) Fisheries and wildlife Chapter 13

Lecture 11 (Nov 5) Air pollution Chapter 16, 18

Lecture 12 (Nov 12) Waste and Toxic Substance Chapters 9 and 20

Lecture 13 (Nov 19) Development and Environment Chapter 22

Lecture 14 (Dec 3) Sustainable Development Chapter 23