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Billy Mertens

ECON 12

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<https://learn.colorado.edu/>

T 10:45am – 12:20pm & 3:15 – 4:35pm, TH 10:45am – 12:20pm, and by appointment (please give 2 weeks' notice for appointments).

This course is designed to give you an introduction to the implications of natural resources as economic concepts. It presents theories of efficient utilization of natural resources and discusses challenges to frame problems in economic terms and propose solutions to these problems.

A much more detailed outline of covered material is posted separately.

Students must have completed ECON 1078, 1088, 2010, 2020, 3070 and 3818. I assume that you did not only take the class, but also that you understand and remember the content. It is important that you fulfill the prerequisite you take this course, and understand the materials in the prerequisite. If you have any uncertainty as to whether you are under or over qualified to take the course, please talk to me ASAP. The prerequisites must be strictly enforced.

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### **Prerequisite Quiz**

To be sure you are prepared for the material to be covered in this course, you will take a preliminary quiz. The quiz will cover some basic statistics and calculus. The quiz may have an impact on your overall grade. Two items are very important for passing this course: a good math foundation, and a willingness to strive to find answers even when they are not obvious. For this reason, you either need to score 80% or more on the prerequisite quiz, or at least continue to attempt to solve the problems given for a full 45 minutes. If you do not either spend 45 minutes on the quiz, or score above 80%, then your overall grade will be reduced by 10%. I will also score the exams and give you feedback and possible options going forward. If you do very poorly despite a serious effort, we will discuss your prerequisites or other options.

### **Electronics in the Classroom**

Laptops, tablets, and even phones can actually play a roll and benefit learning in many types of classes. There are many pros and cons of allowing consistent use of these devices during the class period. However, it has become abundantly clear to me that these devices are more of a distraction than a learning aid in most (but not all) situations. In addition, taking notes by hand has actually been shown to be [more effective than taking them on a laptop or tablet.](#) Therefore, electronic devices will only be allowed in class in the last two rows of the classroom (this includes cell phone use for texting, etc.). **You also cannot use any form of electronic device during Group-Led-Discussions(GLDs), or Group Assignments (it defeats the purpose of working together). If you use them on those days, you will automatically receive a zero for that day's assignment. On GLD days, you must put your phone away! Do Not even set it on your desk!** If you are expecting an important call or text, then simply put your phone on vibrate, sit near the door, and step out when the call/text comes through. Of course, if you have a disability services related need for these devices they will be allowed – in that case notify me of your exception ASAP. Some people write out their notes into a tablet; in this case, an exception may be made – again notify me ASAP.

This course is a little more traditional than many of the other classes I teach. Lecture is still the primary component, but group assignments and discussions are taking on a slightly larger role. One of the most important changes from prior semesters is that all exams will be cumulative, and we will spend at least a little time reviewing for each exam. A little more detail on these systems is given below:



There are many studies showing a clear relationship between class attendance and student achievement. For this reason, there is a strict attendance policy for this course. Daily attendance will be taken. If you miss (unexcused absences) more than 10% of the course (more than 3 days), 10% will be subtracted from your overall percentage. If you miss (unexcused absences) more than 5 days, you will receive an automatic F. A sign-in sheet will be circulated daily *when necessary*. \_\_\_\_\_

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Group Assignments	6%
Group-Led Discussion	10%
Quizzes (and Participation)	15%
Exam I	20%
Exam II	23%
Final Exam	26%

I adhere strictly to the University guidelines on Incompletes (“An I is given only when students, *beyond their control*, have been unable to complete course requirements. A substantial amount of work must have been *satisfactorily completed* before approval for such a grade is completed.”). Bad grades, unsatisfactory performance, too many credit hours, work conflicts, etc. are not reasons for an incomplete.

*Grading Scale:*

92% to 100%	A
90% to 91%	A-

### *Honor Code*

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, and of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>

### *Disabilities*

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu).

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with your professor.

### *Religious holidays*

A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly

*Policy on Discrimination and Harassment*

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or