

Environmental Economics
Economics 3545
Spring 2021

Instructor: Kevin Starnes (kevin.w.starnes@colorado.edu)
Class Meeting: MWF 4:10-5:00, Online
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-2:00 PM and Friday 1:30-3:30 PM
Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/my/kevin.starnes>
Website: Canvas

Course Description

This course in environmental economics will introduce students to the relationship between the economic system and environmental systems. Whereas natural resource economics focuses on flows from the environment to the economic system, environmental economics focuses on flows from the economic system to the environment. One classic example of these flows would be air pollution. This class builds upon basic microeconomic thought to analyze environmental impacts. Students will learn the tools to consider market failures and the important question of whether or not market interventions are justified on economic grounds. This course will also address institutions and policy issues related to climate change, ecosystem services, and renewable energy.

Required Materials:

Environmental Economics and Management: Theory, Policy, and Applications, by Scott Callan and Janet Thomas.

This textbook is available through Cengage for access, or from Cengage unlimited if you are required to have Cengage textbooks for multiple classes.

Grade Breakdown:

Grade Item	Percentage
Homework Assignments	20%
Participation Quizzes	15%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final	25%

Final: The final exam will take place on Wednesday May 5th proctored online. The final exam is mandatory.

As is university policy, you can reschedule your final exam only if you have three or more exams scheduled for the same day. If this is the case, you may have your exams rescheduled except for the first two exams scheduled for of that day. However, you must request accommodations for this before the 10th week of classes.

Midterms:

Each midterm will count for 20% of your final grade. The first midterm is tentatively scheduled for Feb 26th. These exams will include a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. More details on each format will be given leading up to each exam.

Participation Quizzes:

Research has shown that students who regularly attend courses perform better on exams. While we are in an online learning environment, I have continued to see higher grades from more engaged students. Therefore, I am strongly encouraging regular attendance and participation through zoom quizzes that will be given each lecture. These quizzes will account for 15% of your final grade.

To remain in the course, you must be present for 2 out of the first 3 days of class. Otherwise, you risk being administratively dropped to make room for students on the waiting list. If you are not able to make this attendance for some reason, contact me as soon as possible.

Homework Assignments:

There will generally be weekly homework assignments what will make up 20% of your grade. These homework assignments will be assigned through canvas and due by Sunday at 11:59 PM. There fill be no homework due the first Sunday of class (Jan 17th). These homework assignments will be a mix of mathematical problems, answering conceptual questions, and occasional discussion questions.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements, and public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at CU Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

- maintain 6-foot distancing when possible,

- wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders,

- clean local work area,

- practice hand hygiene,

- follow public health orders, and

- if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a CU Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert [CU Boulder Medical Services](#).

Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policies on [COVID-19 Health and Safety](#) and [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these the

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive