Course Syllabus
University of Colorado, Boulder
Economics 4545-001
Maymester 2010

Professor: Nicholas E. Flores
Professor's Office: Economics Rm. 212
Voice: 303 492-8145
Email: Nicholas.Flores@Colorado.edu
Office Hours: M-F 3:30 – 4:30 and by appointment

Classroom: Economics 119
Class Meeting Time: MTWTHF 12:15 – 3:30

Required Textbook

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, 8th Edition, by Tom Tietenberg and Lynne Lewis

Note you can either purchase this book in hard copy or purchase as a CourseSmart eTextbook (electronic book).

Course Overview

In this course we will continue your economics education by considering the economic approach to analyzing and solving environmental problems. In addition to learning about the methods that economists use to analyze environmental problems and issues, you will be challenged to frame problems in economic terms and propose solutions to these problems.

Prerequisites

To be enrolled in this course, you should have Economics 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomics) or an equivalent course. Simple analytical models will be used throughout the course. You should be comfortable with basic economic models of optimization as well as calculus. If your transcript does not reflect the prerequisite, you need to verify with me that you have successfully completed an equivalent course.

Course Components

- Lecture: With help from you and your fellow students, we will make class lectures an active learning experience. This means you will be required to discuss lecture material in class (i.e. you will have to think on your feet).

- In-class Exercises: Some topics lend themselves to in-class exercises as another way of learning. These exercises will sometimes involve the entire class working together and at other times small groups or individuals working on problems.

- Homework: There will be regular homework assignments that will be turned in and graded by me.

-

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. 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 differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html.

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, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council and those students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member involved and non-academic sanctions given by the Honor Code Council (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).

Please refer to www.colorado.edu/honorcode to view the specific guidelines. If you have any questions related to this policy, please contact the Honor Code Council at honor@colorado.edu.

Course Topics

1. Do you remember the basics from Intermediate Micro?
2. What distinguishes the economic approach to environmental problems from other approaches?
3. Overview of a few pressing environmental problems (Chapter 1ENRE).
4. Economic concepts and environmental decision making (Chapter 2 ENRE).
5. Economic methods for valuing the environment (Chapter 3 ENRE).
6. Environmental problems as market failure (Chapter 4 ENRE).
7. Environmental problems in a dynamic framework (Chapter 5 ENRE).
8. Population and the challenges it poses for the future (Chapter 6 ENRE).
9. Economic approaches to pollution control (Chapter 15 - 20 ENRE)
10. Economics of environmental justice (Chapter 21 ENRE).

Important Dates

May 10 – First Day of Class
May 14 – Midterm 1 (1 hour)
May 21 – Midterm 2 (1 hour)
May 27 – Final Exam 12:15 p.m. – 4 p.m.