

# ECON 3545: Environmental Economics

## Syllabus

Instructor: Grant Webster

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Office Hours: M: 9:30-11am or Anytime after class

Class Hours: M/T/W/T/F 11:10-12:45pm

Office: ECON 401

Class Room: ECON 117

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## Course Description

This course introduces students to the economic analysis of environmental issues and policies. Highlights the causes of excessive environmental pollution and tools for controlling it through economic analysis. This course will cover topics on the values of preservation, climate change, and the distribution of costs and benefits from environmental policies.

## Course Materials

Optional but recommended: Harris, Jonathan and Roach, Brian. Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: A Contemporary Approach, 5th edition

## Prerequisites

ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics), with a minimum grade of a C-. Economics (ECON) majors may be approved to enroll with advisor & instructor approval and count towards the major GPA. Majors must consult with assigned ECON advisor to determine eligibility to be enrolled. Degree credit not granted for this course and ECON 4545.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Use evidence to identify sources and consequences of environmental degradation associated with human activity.
2. Understand and explain the incentives and economic fundamentals that underlie these activities and develop policies that balance the costs and benefits associated with environmental economic policy.
3. Comprehend research in environmental economics and critically analyze policy and media surrounding environmental issues.

4. Develop and concisely communicate environmental policy in a manner that is understandable to policymakers and the general public.

## Grading Criteria

### Grading Policy

The typical University of Colorado grading scale will be used. I reserve the right to curve the scale dependent on overall class scores at the end of the semester. Any curve will only ever make it easier to obtain a certain letter grade. The grade will count the assessments using the following proportions:

- Quizzes (5x): 60%
- Homework: 10%
- In-class Assignments: 10%
- Writing Assignments: 20%

### Homework

Each week there will be 2 homework assignments on the material for those chapters. Homework assignments will be due at 11:59pm on the due date. Homework will most often be due on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These assignments will be completed on Canvas and may consist of

## Writing Assignments

Two written assignments will be given out over the course of the semester. These assignments will give you an opportunity to write about current environmental economic issues. These writing assignments will be about 2 pages double spaced. More details on the topic of these papers will be provided further into the course. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for the assignment.

- Cost-Benefit Analysis: Due July, 30th
- Article Analysis: Due August, 9th

## In-class Assignments

Over the course of the semester, we will have a variety of in-class games or exercises. These will be participation oriented and mainly graded based on attending. A few may be based on performance.

## Attendance Policy

As this is an upper-level course, attendance is strongly recommended but not required.

## Course Policies

### During Class

I will expect you to maintain a high standard of professionalism at all times in this class. Please be respectful to your peers as we discuss environmental and economic concepts. I understand that the electronic recording of notes will be important for class and so computers will be allowed in class. Please refrain from using computers for anything but activities related to the class. Eating and drinking are allowed in class but please refrain from it distracting your peers or affecting the course.

### Policies on Incomplete Grades and Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted for no penalty if a valid excuse is communicated to the instructor before the deadline. After the deadline, each day late a 10% deduction will be applied, up until one week after the deadline. After this, any assignments handed in will be given 0.

### Communication

To make things easier on everyone, I will try to communicate to the class primarily through Canvas announcements or email, so be sure to have Canvas notifications on so that you do not miss anything. If you need to contact me, feel free to visit during my office hours or send me an email and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. I do ask that before emailing me, you check this syllabus for an answer to your question first. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond before sending a follow-up email.

## University Policies

### 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, gen-

