

EVE 533 Economics of Environmental Concerns

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Fall Semester
Tuesday 5:00-7:30 pm
JE 335

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00-5:00 pm; Wednesday 11:00-12:30 pm, Thursday 11:00-12:30 pm. Office hours outside of scheduled times may be requested by an individual or group by email or phone.

Course Description: Environmental economics applies microeconomic analytical tools to analyze contemporary environmental problems and develop policies regarding the environment. This course will focus on the nature and causes of local, regional and global environmental issues. Specific environmental issues examined will include municipal solid waste, acid rain, management of air, water and energy resources. The lectures will initially cover microeconomic analytical tools including benefit-cost analysis, cost effectiveness analysis, damage assessment and externalities. The environmental issues analyzed will also be carefully examined to understand the sources and nature of the problem, effects on the environment and possible solutions (policy, technology). A prior economics course is not necessary for success in this course.

Course Objectives:

Specific objectives of this course are to:

- (1) To understand the institutions and economic factors causing environmental problems and to understand how they affect natural resource use.
- (2) To develop economic analytical tools for evaluating environmental assets and damages and to show how these tools are applied in environmental decision making.
- (3) To understand the economic and social justifications for various policy approaches to preventing environmental pollution at local, regional and global levels.

Modes of Instruction:

This course will consist primarily of lectures and class discussions. We will also view appropriate videotapes and work either individually or in small groups to evaluate data or problems for presentation to the class. Students will also be responsible to present the results of their semester project orally to the class.

Accommodations: If you need course adaptations or accommodations due to a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. Also contact the SCSU Disability Resource Office which provides and coordinates individualized accommodations and support services for all students with disabilities.

Evaluation:	Class Participation	25%
	Mid-term Project	15%
	Research Paper	35%
	Class Presentation	25%

Participation in class discussions is a very important component of the final grade. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions. Students are expected to be prepared for each class and complete the assigned readings prior to class. A single environmental economics course can not possibly cover the range of topics available. As such, a research paper will allow students to more fully explore the economics and policy options available to address environmental issues of specific interest. Each paper topic requires instructor approval. The specific nature of the paper will be discussed in class. Each student will also present the results of their research paper to the class.

Midterm Project: Each student will identify an environmental problem of concern which will be developed into a research paper. For the midterm, each student will be responsible for addressing a series of requests/questions designed to further clarify your approach (not necessarily your complete answer) to solving your particular problem, with an emphasis on examining the economics of the solution to the problem. These responses will be typed and will serve as the basis for writing the final report.

Research Papers: Each student is responsible for submitting a written research paper on the environmental and economic aspects of a local, regional or international problem of their choice. Students may chose any topic of interest pending instructor approval.

All papers and laboratory reports will be typed and double spaced using a 12-point font (Times preferred) and one-inch margins. Number the text pages. Tables, Figures and Literature Cited do not count as text pages. Reports are due no later than November 28. Five percent will be deducted for each **day** the report is overdue.

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Topic	Chapters
What is Environmental Economics? The Economy and the Environment	Field 1 & 2
Benefits and Costs, Supply and Demand Economic Efficiency and Markets	Field 3 & 4
Economic Efficiency and Markets Economics of Environmental Quality	Field 4 & 5
Economics of Environmental Quality Framework of Analysis	Field 5 & 6
Framework of Analysis Benefit-Cost Analysis: Benefits and Costs	Field 6, 7 & 8
Benefit-Cost Analysis: Benefits and Costs	Field 7 & 8
Criteria for Evaluating Environmental Policies Command and Control Strategies	Field 9 & 11
Buley library visit (Research resources)	
State and Local Environmental Issues Case Study: Solid Waste Management (Recycling)	Field 17
Federal Water Pollution Control Policy Case Study: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill	Field 14 Underwood 12
Federal Air Pollution Control Policy Case Study: Acid Rain and SO ₂ Emissions Trading	Field 15 Underwood 9
The Global Environment: Case Study: Global Warming	Field 20, 21
Thanksgiving Recess (no class)	
Student Research Presentations	
Student Research Presentations	
Final Exam week (Research Papers due)	

Required Text:

The primary required text for the course is Environmental Economics: An Introduction by Barry C. Field and Martha K. Field. I have included several additional suggested readings which will be discussed during class. These texts are either currently available in the SCSU library or will be copied and distributed to the class. Students are expected to have completed the suggested reading assignments prior to the scheduled lecture.

Environmental Economics: An Introduction (3rd Edition)

Barry C. Field and Martha K Field, McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.
ISBN 0-07-2429216

Other Suggested Readings:**Case Studies in Environmental Sciences**

Larry Underwood, Saunders College Publishing
ISBN 0-03-02177-x

Environmental Science: Earth as a Living Planet (3rd Edition)

Daniel B. Botkin and Edward A. Keller, John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
ISBN 0-471-32173-7

Principles of Environmental Economics: Economics, Ecology and Public Policy

Ahmed M. Hussan SCSU HC79. E5 H875 2000

Environmental Economics and Management: Theory, Policy and Applications (2nd Edition)

Scott J. Caller and Janet M. Thomas SCSU HC79. E5 C355 2000

