

ECONOMICS 131 – FALL 2003
ECONOMICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Instructor: Genevieve Peters
Office: Economics Building 110B
Office Hours: MWF 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Office Phone: (858) 534-7974
Email: gpeters@weber.ucsd.edu

Classroom: Cognitive Sciences Building 001
Class Time: MWF 3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Class Web Page: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~gpeters/econ131/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the way in which economists view environmental issues. The first part of the course builds the economic tools that will be required for understanding environmental issues from an economic perspective. The second part of the course focuses on the specific issues facing economists trying to estimate environmental costs and benefits. The third part of the course will use these tools to investigate specific environmental problems related to water pollution.

PREREQUISITES

The prerequisite for Economics 131 is Economics 1A-B or 2A-B.

TEXTS

The required text is Environmental Economics and Management, 3rd Edition, by Scott J. Callan and Janet M. Thomas. I strongly advise against relying on earlier editions of the text. Questions on exams will be based on the 3rd edition, which has different case studies and chapter presentations than earlier editions. If you rely on the first or second edition for exam preparation you will miss important material that will certainly be on exams.

COURSE READINGS

We will be covering chapters 1-9 and 14-16 from the Callan & Thomas text. The reading assignments for each lecture are outlined in the class schedule below. Lectures will focus on the more difficult material in the readings, but you will be responsible for all the material in each chapter. You will get a lot more out of this class if you read the required chapters before each lecture.

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is an individual student responsibility. Although daily attendance is not recorded, the lectures will be more mathematical than the text, and I will frequently provide examples during lecture that don't appear in the textbook but are fair game for examination. Thus, frequent absences may adversely impact grades.

PRACTICE PROBLEMS

Practice problems for each chapter will be posted on the class website. You are encouraged to work through these problems with your classmates since you will see similar problems on exams. These problems will not be collected and will not be graded.

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EXAMINATIONS

Two midterm exams and one final exam will be given in this course. The midterm exams will be given in class on **October 22, 2003**, and **November 12, 2003**. The final exam will be held **December 9, 2003** from 3 – 6 p.m. All three exams will be comprised of analytical problems, multiple-choice questions, and true-false questions. No calculators, study aids, or notes will be allowed in the exams.

Midterm exams will be administered at the beginning of the class and will last exactly fifty (50) minutes. Students who arrive late will not receive extra time to complete their exam.

The final exam will last exactly three (3) hours. Once a student completes the final exam, then no other student will be permitted to start the exam.

All exams must be given at the scheduled time and place: they cannot be given “early”.

Any student suspected of cheating on an exam will receive a grade of zero on the exam and be brought to the attention of the Dean.

MISSED EXAMINATIONS

No make-up exams will be given in this class. Students who miss a midterm exam without a university accepted excuse will receive a grade of zero (0) for the exam. Students who miss a midterm with a university accepted excuse will have the weight of the final exam increased accordingly. You must take the final exam to receive a grade in this class.

Excuses for missed exams must be pre-approved by the instructor (except when this is not possible in an emergency situation). Students who make initial contact after the exam will have to document why they could not make contact prior to the exam. In addition, any student who misses an exam due to illness will be required to provide documentation from a health care professional indicating why the student was unable to take the exam. All documentation and an additional signed written statement explaining the relevant circumstances of the absence must be provided to the instructor within two working days of the student's return to campus. Failure to comply with any of the above in the specified manner will result in a grade of zero (0) for the exam.

GRADING

Numerical grades will be assigned as follows

Midterm I	=	20%
Midterm II	=	30%
Final Exam	=	50%
Total	=	100%

Letter grades will be allocated using the following breakdown:

Letter	A	A-	B	B+	B
Numerical Range	87% - 100%	82% - 86%	77% - 81%	74% - 76%	70% - 73%
Letter	C+	C	C-	D	F
Numerical Range	67% - 69%	64% - 66%	60% - 63%	50% - 59%	0% - 49%

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CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Friday	September 26	Syllabus and Chapter 1
Monday	September 29	Chapter 1
Wednesday	October 1	Chapter 2
Friday	October 3	Chapter 2
Monday	October 6	Chapter 2
Wednesday	October 8	Chapter 3
Friday	October 10	Chapter 3
Monday	October 13	Chapter 3
Wednesday	October 15	Chapter 4
Friday	October 17	Chapter 4
Monday	October 20	Chapter 4
Wednesday	October 22	Midterm Exam I (Chapters 1-4)
Friday	October 24	Chapter 5
Monday	October 27	Chapter 5
Wednesday	October 29	Chapter 5
Friday	October 31	Chapter 6
Monday	November 3	Chapter 6
Wednesday	November 5	Chapter 7
Friday	November 7	Chapter 7
Monday	November 10	Chapter 8
Wednesday	November 12	Midterm Exam II (Chapters 1-8)
Friday	November 14	Chapter 9
Monday	November 17	Chapter 9
Wednesday	November 19	Chapter 14
Friday	November 21	Chapter 14
Monday	November 24	Chapter 15
Wednesday	November 26	Chapter 15
Friday	<i>November 28</i>	<i>University Holiday - Class and Office Hours Cancelled</i>
Monday	December 1	Chapter 16
Wednesday	December 3	Chapter 16
Friday	December 5	Review
Tuesday	December 9	Final Exam (Chapters 1-9 and 14-16)