

Economics 131 – Fall 2014

Professor: Mark Jacobsen (m3jacobsen@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Economics Building, Room 227
Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm
(Please also check Ted for extra office hours before exams)

Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 5:00-6:20pm, Center Hall 101

Web Page: <http://ted.ucsd.edu>

Economics of the Environment

Economics 131 introduces key themes in environmental economics, including cost-benefit analysis and the theory of externalities. We then consider applications to environmental problems both in the U.S. and internationally, for example in the context of development, energy use, and sustainability. The issues will be treated mathematically using formal economic models, while at the same time the field is heavily influenced by experimental work and results in the natural sciences.

Textbook

Markets and the Environment (Keohane and Olmstead, 2007)
(required)

Problem Sets

The five problem sets will each start with *one* graded question. Problem sets and due dates will be announced in class and also posted on Ted. Grades will depend on showing your work and demonstrating you understand the question: ✓+ (perfect), ✓ (good), and ✓- (mistakes and/or work not shown). I will count them such that ✓'s will generally not affect your course grade, ✓+'s can increase it, and ✓- or 0 grades can decrease it. All other questions in the problem sets will not be graded, but you are strongly encouraged to work through them and we will post detailed solutions on Ted.

TA's

Your TA's will lead five sessions during the quarter, covering the problem sets as well as anything from lecture you have questions on. These are optional but I encourage you to attend when you can: many students find them very helpful. Your TA office hours and session times will be announced in class and on Ted.

Exams

First midterm: Tuesday, October 28th, 5:00pm in class
Second midterm: Thursday, November 20th, 5:00pm in class
Final exam: **Friday, December 19th, 7:00-10:00pm**

Grades

Grades will be based on the problem sets (5%), first midterm (20%), second midterm (30%), and final exam (45%).

The exams will cover the material presented in class, problem sets, and assigned reading.

Exams are closed book and notes and calculators are not permitted. It is the policy of the economics department to turn any issues of academic integrity over to the university.

If you miss one of the midterms and are excused ahead of time we can transfer the weight to the other exams. If you were not excused ahead of time a grade of 0 will be assigned. The final exam is required.

Schedule and Outline

10/2 <i>Syllabus and meet TAs, no lecture</i>	11/11 <i>Veteran's day holiday</i>
10/7 Costs and benefits (Ch. 1-2)	11/13 Cars and transportation
10/9 Costs and benefits (Ch. 3)	11/18 Cars and transportation
10/14 Externalities (Ch. 4-5)	<u>11/20 Midterm (in class)</u>
10/16 Externalities (Ch. 5)	11/25 Sustainability (Ch. 11)
10/21 Policy (Ch. 8)	11/27 <i>Thanksgiving holiday</i>
10/23 Policy (Ch. 8-9)	12/2 Valuing ecosystems and human risks
<u>10/28 Midterm (in class)</u>	12/4 Resources and energy (Ch. 6-7)
10/30 Policy, applications (Ch. 9)	12/9 Fisheries (Ch. 7)
11/4 Climate change (Ch. 10)	12/11 Fisheries, water economics, and review
11/6 Climate change	<u>12/19 Final Exam (7:00pm-10:00pm)</u>

Please check the announcements included at the beginning of each lecture (also appearing on the slides posted on Ted) for reading assignments, problem sets, and updates and reminders on this schedule.