

Economics 131 – Fall 2016

Professor: Mark Jacobsen (m3jacobsen@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Economics Building, Room 227
Mondays 4:00-5:00pm
(Please also check TritonEd for extra office hours before exams)

Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 5:00-6:20pm, Warren Lecture Hall 2001

Web Page: <http://triton.ed.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, 2nd ed. 2016)
(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 TritonEd. Grades will depend on showing your work and demonstrating you understand the question: ✓+ (perfect), ✓ (good), and ✓- (mistakes and/or work not shown). The graded questions count for 5% of your grade. 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 TritonEd.

TAs

Your TAs will lead four sessions during the quarter covering problem sets 2 through 5, 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. There will also be an additional review session before the final, and extended TA office hours before exams. Please check TritonEd as the class progresses for the latest TA office hours and session times.

Exams

First midterm: in class October 18th (60 minutes)
Second midterm: in class November 10th (80 minutes)
Final exam: **Friday, December 9th, 7:00-10:00pm**

Grades

Grades will be based on the problem sets (5%), first midterm (15%), second midterm (30%), and final exam (50%).

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 to complete the class.

Schedule and Outline

9/22	Costs and benefits (Ch. 1-2)	11/1	Cars and transportation
9/27	Costs and benefits (Ch. 3)	11/3	Cars and transportation
9/29	<i>Optional: review of consumer and producer surplus (Ch. 4)</i>	11/8	Sustainability (Ch. 11)
10/4	Externalities (Ch. 4-5)	11/10 Midterm (in class, 5:00-6:20pm)	
10/6	Policy (Ch. 8)	11/15	Resources and energy (Ch. 6-7)
10/11	Policy (Ch. 8-9)	11/17	Resources and energy
10/13	Policy, applications (Ch. 9)	11/22	Fisheries (Ch. 7)
10/18 Midterm (in class, 5:00-6:00pm)		11/24	<i>Thanksgiving holiday</i>
10/20	Climate change (Ch. 10)	11/29	Fisheries, water economics
10/25	Climate change	12/1	Water economics and wrap-up
10/27	Valuing ecosystems and human risks	12/9 Final Exam (7:00pm-10:00pm)	

Please check the announcements included at the beginning of each lecture for reading assignments, problem sets, and changes and reminders on this schedule.