

University of California, San Diego
Department of Economics
Winter 2020

ECON 131: Environmental Economics

Prof. Augusto Nieto Barthaburu
Lectures: TuTh 5:00-6:20 PM at HSS 1330
Email: anieto@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: TuTh 2:30-3:30 PM
Office: Economics 113
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Textbook

Tom Tietenberg and Lynne Lewis, *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics* (ENRE), 11th Edition (2018).

This text is a comprehensive introduction to the economics approach to environmental problems. We will follow the textbook fairly closely during the course.

Hard copies of the textbook are available on reserve at Geisel Library. You can also access an eBook version of the textbook for free from UCSD Library using an UCSD IP address. A link to the Library eBook is provided in our TritonEd website. The Library eBook has a restriction of three users at a time.

An eBook is also available as a purchasing option for this course. You can access this eBook by clicking the RedShelf tool within TritonEd. **If you opt-in to this eBook by clicking the Opt-in Now button your student account will be charged directly.** You will also receive an email with the exact amount of this charge. Within the add/drop period you may also opt-out of this ebook if you decide you'd rather use an alternate format. **If you opt-in for the ebook but want to cancel the purchase, you must do so by 1/18 at midnight to avoid being charged.**

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to environmental problems from an economic perspective. In the first part of the course we will introduce economic tools that will be useful to think about environmental economics issues. The main application in this part is pollution control, which is intimately related to climate change mitigation. The second part of the course will deal with efficient use of natural resources, including oil, water, land, forests and fisheries.

Course website

We will use a web page located at <https://triton.ed.ucsd.edu/>. We will post all information relevant to the course, the syllabus, lecture notes, problem sets, practice tests, solutions, etc. on the website. You should check the webpage regularly.

Grading

Homework: 5%

Midterm: 35%, in class on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Final: 60%, please check UCSD's schedule of classes for date, time and room information.

Homework

Homework will be assigned, collected and graded. Solutions for each problem set will be provided on the course's website after the due date. **It is very important that you work on the problem sets and understand them, since they are the best preparation for exams.**

Teaching Assistants

Name	Email	Location	Office Hours
Bruno Lopez Videla	brlopezv@ucsd.edu	Sequoyah Hall 108	Monday 3:30-5:00 PM
Frances Lu	fllu@ucsd.edu	Sequoyah Hall 208	Friday 12:30-2:00 PM

Administrative Issues:

1. If you have a documented disability, please talk to Gabriela Perdomo at Sequoyah Hall 245. Bring your documentation with you. Do it as soon as possible so that we can make suitable accommodations for you.
2. If you arrive late to an exam, I will allow you to take the test in the time that remains **as long as no one has turned in his/her exam and left the room**. If a classmate has already turned in his/her exam by the time you arrive, you will earn a zero on that test.
3. If you have to miss the midterm **for a medical or other University approved reason**, the weight of that exam will be allocated to the final exam. In that case, you will need to provide proof of your situation. The weights will not be reallocated for any other reason.
4. All students must take the final exam at the scheduled date and time, so if you have any conflicts with other exams you are advised not to take this course (or the other courses that this course's exam conflicts with).
5. UCSD now has automated waitlists, and instructors cannot move students from the waitlist to the course's roster. If you have any questions regarding adding the course, please contact the undergraduate advisors at Sequoyah Hall 245.
6. **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.** Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Coordinator. In addition to the penalties imposed by the Academic Integrity Review Board, **I also reserve the right to fail students found guilty of academic misconduct.**

COURSE OUTLINE

PART I: Markets and the Environment

Topic 1: Introduction

ENRE, Chapter 1

Topic 2: Valuing the Environment

ENRE, Chapters 3 and 4

Topic 3: Externalities, Property Rights and Pollution Control

ENRE, Chapters 2 and 14

PART II: Markets and Natural Resources

Topic 4: Depletable Resources: Dynamic Efficiency

ENRE, Chapter 5

Topic 5: Water

ENRE, Chapter 9

Topic 6: Land Use

ENRE, Chapter 10

Topic 7: Forestry

ENRE, Chapter 11

Topic 8: Fisheries

ENRE, Chapter 12