

Economics 131 - Fall 2012

Professor: Mark Jacobsen (m3jacobsen@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Economics Building, Room 223
Mondays 4-5pm and Thursdays 11am-noon (except Oct. 25th)
Extra office hours near exams will also be posted on TED

Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 6:30-7:50pm, Center Hall 101
Web Page: <http://ted.ucsd.edu>

Class email (your TA's will answer questions here): **ucsdecon131@gmail.com**

Economics of the Environment

Economics 131 presents a broad variety of work in environmental economics, including cost-benefit analysis, the theory of externalities, and applications to environmental regulation both in the U.S. and internationally. We touch on questions of the environment in the context of development, population growth, and sustainability. The issues will be treated with mathematical rigor in the context of formal economic models. At the same time, the field is heavily influenced by work in the natural sciences.

Required Text

Markets and the Environment (Keohane and Olmstead, 2007)

TA's

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| Marina Kutuvavina | Office hours: Wednesdays 5:00-6:00pm in Sequoyah 238 |
| William Leung | Office hours: Mondays 3:30-4:30pm in Econ 123 |
| Sam Young | Office hours: Thursdays 9:30-10:30am in Econ 126 |

The TA's will also lead review sessions, covering each of six problem sets and helping you prepare for exams. Problem set solutions will be posted online after the sessions; the problem sets are not graded.

Graded Quiz and Exams

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| Quiz: | Tuesday, October 16th (in class at 6:30pm, followed by lecture) |
| Midterm exam: | Tuesday, October 30th (in class, 6:30pm-7:45pm) |
| Final exam: | Tuesday, December 11th (7:00pm-10:00pm) |

Grades

Grades will be based on the quiz (10%), midterm (35%), and final exam (55%). All are closed-book.

Exams will cover the material presented in class, the problem sets, and the assigned reading from the text.

Exams can only be offered at the time and place above and notes, books, calculators, cell phones, etc. are not permitted. Note that it is the policy of the economics department to turn matters of academic integrity over to the university.

If you miss the quiz or midterm the weight can only be transferred to the other exams if the professor excused you ahead of time. If you were not excused ahead of time a grade of 0 will be assigned for that exam. You need to take the final in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

Schedule and Outline

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| 9/27 Introduction (Ch. 1) | 11/1 Climate Change |
| 10/2 Costs and benefits (Ch. 2) | 11/6 Climate change/examples (Ch. 10) |
| 10/4 Costs and benefits (Ch. 3) | 11/8 Cars and transportation |
| 10/9 Externalities (Ch. 4-5) | 11/13 Cars and transportation |
| 10/11 Externalities (Ch. 5) | 11/15 Sustainability (Ch. 11) |
| 10/16 Quiz (20 minutes), | 11/20 Valuing ecosystems and human risks |
| followed by introduction to Policy (Ch. 8) | 11/22 <i>Thanksgiving holiday</i> |
| 10/18 Policy (Ch. 8-9) | 11/27 Natural resources, forests (Ch. 6-7) |
| 10/23 Policy, Extensions (Ch. 9) | 11/29 Fisheries (Ch. 7) |
| 10/25 <i>No lecture, midterm-review in class</i> | 12/4 Water economics |
| 10/30 Midterm (in class, 75 minutes) | 12/6 Wrap-up, review |
| | 12/11 Final Exam (7:00pm-10:00pm) |

Please see announcements at the beginning of each lecture (slides posted on TED) for reading assignments, problem sets, and updates and reminders on this schedule.