

Economics 131 – Fall 2013

Professor: Mark Jacobsen (m3jacobsen@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Economics Building, Room 223
Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm
(Please also check Ted for extra office hours before exams)

Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:50am, Solis Hall 107

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, also available on reserve at Geisel Library)

Problem Sets

The six problem sets will each start with *one* graded question, due dates 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 six 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 really helpful. TA office hours:

Marina Kutuyavina (email: mkutyavi@ucsd.edu)
Mondays 3:45 - 4:45pm, Sequoyah Hall 238

Wei You (email: wyou@ucsd.edu)
Mondays 10:00 - 11:00am, Economics Building 119

Sam Young (email: smyoung@ucsd.edu)
Thursdays 11:00am - 12:00noon, Economics Building 126

Exams

First (short) midterm: October 17th in class, 30 minutes followed by lecture

Second midterm: November 5th in class, 9:30-10:45am

Final exam: December 12th, 8:00-11:00am

Grades

Grades will be based on the problem sets (5%), first midterm (15%), second midterm (35%), 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

<p>9/26 Introduction (Ch. 1) 10/1 Costs and benefits (Ch. 2) 10/3 Costs and benefits (Ch. 3) 10/8 Externalities (Ch. 4-5) 10/10 Externalities (Ch. 5) 10/15 Policy (Ch. 8)</p> <p><u>10/17 Short midterm (30 minutes),</u> rest of class: Policy (finish Ch. 8)</p> <p>10/22 Policy, applications (Ch. 9) 10/24 Review, extra problems (optional) 10/29 Climate change (Ch. 10) 10/31 Climate change</p>	<p><u>11/5 Midterm (in class, 75 minutes)</u></p> <p>11/7 Cars and transportation 11/12 Cars and transportation 11/14 Sustainability (Ch. 11) 11/19 Valuing ecosystems and human risks 11/21 Resources and energy (Ch. 6-7) 11/26 Fisheries (Ch. 7) 11/28 <i>Thanksgiving holiday</i> 12/3 Fisheries, water economics 12/5 Wrap-up, review</p> <p><u>12/12 Final Exam (8:00am-11:00am)</u></p>
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Please check the announcements included at the beginning of each lecture (also on the slides posted on Ted) for reading assignments, problem sets, and updates and reminders on this schedule.