

Economics 131, Section A00

Fall 2019

Professor: Mark Jacobsen (m3jacobsen@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-11:30am, Economics Building, Room 227
(Please also check Canvas for extra office hours before exams)

Class Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00am–12:20pm, Solis Hall 110

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

Economics of the Environment

Economics 131 introduces environmental economics: we begin with the theory, including cost-benefit analysis, externalities, and concepts of economic efficiency that combine standard economic consumption with environmental benefits. We then turn to practical applications of the theory to policy, for example in the context of energy use, sustainability, and economic development. The questions will be treated mathematically using formal economic models, while at the same time the field is heavily influenced by the natural sciences and the role of politics.

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 Canvas. Grades will depend on showing your work and demonstrating you understand the question: ✓+ (perfect), ✓ (good), and ✓– (mistakes and/or work not shown). Other questions in the problem sets will not be graded but you are strongly encouraged to complete them (many are old exam questions). We will post solutions on Canvas.

TAs

Your TAs will lead five sessions during the quarter in order to help review material needed for problem sets and to answer any other questions from lecture. 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 Canvas as the class progresses for the latest TA office hours and session times.

Exams

First midterm: October 17th, **5:00-6:20pm** in Mandeville B-146/B-152
Second midterm: November 12th, **5:00-6:20pm** in Mandeville B-146/B-152
Final exam: Wednesday, December 11th 11:30am-2:30pm

Grades

Grades will be based on the problem sets (5%, we will drop the lowest one so this grade will come from the best four), first midterm (20%), second midterm (30%), and final exam (45%).

The exams are cumulative and 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

9/26 Costs and benefits (Ch. 1-2) 10/1 Costs and benefits (Ch. 3) 10/3 Externalities (Ch. 4-5) 10/8 Externalities, Policy (Ch. 8) 10/10 Policy (Ch. 8-9) 10/15 Policy, applications (Ch. 9) 10/17 No class at 11:00. Midterm 1 5:00-6:20pm Mandeville B-146/152 10/22 Tradable permits (Ch. 10) 10/24 Climate change 10/29 Valuing ecosystems and human risks 10/31 Cars and transportation 11/5 Cars and transportation	11/7 <i>Review and problem solving (no new material)</i> 11/12 No class at 11:00. Midterm 2 5:00-6:20pm Mandeville B-146/152 11/14 Sustainability (Ch. 11) 11/19 Resources and energy (Ch. 6-7) 11/21 Resources and energy 11/26 Energy examples and policy 11/28 <i>Thanksgiving holiday</i> 12/3 Fisheries (Ch. 7) 12/5 Fisheries 12/11 Final Exam
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Please check the announcements included at the beginning of each lecture for reading assignments, problem sets, and changes and reminders on this schedule.