

ECONOMICS 131 – SPRING 2004
ECONOMICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Instructor:	Genevieve Peters
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Office Hours:	TuTh 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
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Classroom:	Center Hall 101
Class Time:	TuTh 11:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Class Web Page:	http://weber.ucsd.edu/~gpeters/econ131/

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the way that economists view environmental issues. The first part of the course builds the economic tools that will be required for understanding environmental issues from an economic perspective. The second part of the course focuses on the specific issues facing economists who estimate environmental costs and benefits. The third part of the course will use these tools to investigate specific environmental policies and problems related to air pollution.

PREREQUISITES

The prerequisite for Economics 131 is Economics 1A-B or 2A-B.

TEXTS

The required text is Environmental Economics and Management, 3rd Edition, by Scott J. Callan and Janet M. Thomas. I strongly advise against relying on earlier editions of the text. Questions on exams will be based on the 3rd edition, which has different case studies and chapter presentations than earlier editions. If you rely on the first or second edition for exam preparation you will miss important material that will certainly be on exams.

COURSE READINGS

We will be covering chapters 1-13 from the Callan & Thomas text. The reading assignments for each lecture are outlined on the class website. Lectures will focus on the more difficult material in the readings, but you will be responsible for all of the material in each chapter. You will get a lot more out of this class if you read the required chapters before each lecture.

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is an individual student responsibility. Although daily attendance is not recorded, the lectures will be more mathematical than the text, and I will frequently provide information during lecture that don't appear in the textbook but are fair game for examination. Thus, frequent absences may adversely impact grades.

PRACTICE PROBLEMS

Practice problems for each chapter will be posted on the class website. You are encouraged to work through these problems with your classmates since you will see similar problems on exams. These problems will not be collected and will not be graded.

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EXAMINATIONS

Two midterm exams and one final exam will be given in this course. The midterm exams will be given in class on **April 22, 2004**, and **May 13, 2004**. The final exam will be held **Wednesday, June 9, 2004 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** All three exams will be comprised of analytical problems, multiple-choice questions, and true-false questions. No calculators, study aids, or notes will be allowed in the exams.

Midterm exams will be administered at the beginning of the class and will last exactly 80 (80) minutes. Students who arrive late will not receive extra time to complete their exam.

The final exam will last exactly three (3) hours. Once a student completes the final exam, then no other student will be permitted to start the exam.

All exams must be taken at the scheduled time and place: they will not be given “early”.

Any student suspected of cheating on an exam will receive a grade of zero on the exam and be brought to the attention of the Dean.

MISSED EXAMINATIONS

No make-up exams will be given in this class. Students who miss a midterm exam without a university accepted excuse will receive a grade of zero (0) for the exam. Students who miss a midterm with a university accepted excuse will have the weight of the final exam increased accordingly. You must take the final exam to receive a grade in this class.

Excuses for missed exams must be pre-approved by the instructor (except when this is not possible in an emergency situation). Students who make initial contact after the exam will have to document why they could not make contact prior to the exam. In addition, any student who misses an exam due to illness will be required to provide documentation from a health care professional indicating why the student was unable to take the exam. All documentation and an additional signed written statement explaining the relevant circumstances of the absence must be provided to the instructor within two working days of the student's return to campus. Failure to comply with any of the above in the specified manner will result in a grade of zero (0) for the exam.

GRADING

Numerical grades will be assigned as follows

Midterm I	=	20%
Midterm II	=	30%
Final Exam	=	50%
Total	=	100%

Letter grades will be allocated using the following breakdown:

Letter	A	A-	B	B+	B
Numerical Range	87% - 100%	82% - 86%	77% - 81%	74% - 76%	70% - 73%
Letter	C+	C	C-	D	F
Numerical Range	67% - 69%	64% - 66%	60% - 63%	50% - 59%	0% - 49%