

**Economics 266**  
**Economics of Natural Resources (Winter 2008)**

*Instructor:* Mark Jacobsen

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*Office:* Economics 223

*Office Hours:* Monday 1:30–3:30pm

Thursday 10:00–11:00am

*Class:* Monday and Wednesday 9:00am–10:20am, Econ 300

This course will introduce the central concepts used in natural resource and environmental economics. While we will survey a variety of literature in the field, more in-depth attention will be given to the areas of climate change and the regulation of industry. You may choose to focus on any aspect of resource or environmental economics in your written assignments, but are encouraged to talk with me particularly if working on topics discussed only in passing during class.

**Reading List**

Required readings will be assigned each week and a careful reading of them will help everyone gain much more from the discussion in class. I'm also happy to direct you to recent literature and more in-depth studies in particular areas that interest you – feel free to come by my office hours or send an email.

**Assignments, Grades, Etc.**

*i) Mock referee report (due 2/13/08)*

A concise two page referee report of a recent working paper or journal article in environmental economics. It should include a brief summary of the methods and findings followed by a longer section critiquing the paper. Your critique can include potential problems with the method or assumptions that may be violated, suggestions for improvements in the presentation, and plausible extensions and refinements to the main arguments.

*ii) Research proposal and presentation*

A well researched proposal for a project that would contribute to the environmental economics literature. The written proposal (less than 10 pages) will be accompanied by a presentation to the class. More details and a schedule will be sent soon. The written portion is due before you present.

Grades will be based mainly on the items above. Participation in class discussion and completion of a problem set are expected and can also influence your grade.