

Economics 131 - Winter 2011

Professor: Mark Jacobsen (m3jacobsen@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Economics Building, Room 223
Tuesdays 5:00pm–6:00pm,
Fridays 11:00am–12:00noon (except 1/7, 2/11, and 3/11),
and by appointment.

Class Times: Monday and Wednesday 6:30pm–7:50pm, Pepper Canyon Hall 106

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

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

Economics of the Environment

Economics 131 serves as an introduction to environmental economics, covering 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)

Library electronic reserve (limited copies): <http://uclibs.org/PID/163486>

TA's (TA office hours and section times will be announced on WebCT and in class)

- Ben Gilbert
- Kirti Gupta
- Chris Steiner

The TA's hold weekly office hours and lead class review sessions. Each of the problem sets will be covered in these sessions, and solutions also posted online. The problem sets will not be graded.

Quiz and Exams

Quiz:	Monday, January 24th (in class, 6:30pm)
Midterm exam:	Wednesday, February 9th (in class, 6:30pm-7:50pm)
Final exam:	Wednesday, March 16th (7:00pm-10:00pm)

Grades

Grades will be based on the quiz (15%), midterm (30%), and final exam (55%). All are closed-book.

Exams will cover the material presented in class, the optional 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

1/3 Introduction (Ch. 1)	2/14 Cars and transportation
1/5 Costs and benefits (Ch. 2)	2/16 Valuing ecosystems and risks to life and health
1/10 Costs and benefits (Ch. 3)	
1/12 Externalities (Ch. 4-5)	<i>(2/21 President's day, no classes)</i>
<i>(1/17 MLK holiday, no classes)</i>	2/23 Natural resources, forests (Ch. 6-7)
1/19 Externalities (Ch. 5)	2/28 Fisheries (Ch. 7)
1/24 Quiz (in class), Policy (Ch. 8)	3/2 Sustainability (Ch. 11)
1/26 Policy and Caveats (Ch. 8-9)	3/7 Water economics
1/31 Climate change	3/9 Wrap-up, review (Ch. 12)
2/2 Climate change/examples (Ch. 10)	<u>3/16 Final Exam (7:00pm-10:00pm)</u>
2/7 Cars and transportation	
<u>2/9 Midterm (in class)</u>	

See announcements at the beginning of each lecture (slides posted on WebCT) for reading assignments, problem sets, and any updates to this schedule.