

**INSTRUCTOR:** Barbara P. Street, Ph.D.  
Office Hours: MWF 1-2 pm, Tr 2:00 --3:00 pm or by appointment  
Kieffer Hall Room 14 Cubicle CC  
Phone: 739-4609 (office) 377-5865 (home)

**COURSE TITLE:** Economics of the Environment /Contemporary Economic Issues

**TEXT:** Duane Chapman, Environmental Economics, Theory, Application and Policy

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course deals with economic analysis of the pressing environmental issues facing societies today. The economic causes of environmental problems, such as externalities and imperfectly assigned property rights will be examined, alternative policies will be analyzed from an economic standpoint, and the economic merits of various solutions to the problems will be studied. This course will include study of property rights, externalities, cost-benefit analysis, valuation techniques, and an exploration of market solutions to environmental problems

**COURSE OBJECTIVES** Given the universal scarcity of resources, it is imperative that as societies address the environmental issues facing them, they do so in an efficient manner. This course will develop analytical skills allowing the student/future policy maker to

1. Identify the economic forces behind many of the environmental issues
2. Analyze the impact of different remedies for an environmental problem
3. Recommend a solution that is cost-effective and uses society's scarce resources wisely, suggestions reflects their views.
4. Communicate recommendations regarding environmental issues clearly and convincingly.

### III. MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Prompt and regular attendance is expected of all students. For each absence above 3, 5 points will be deducted from those 50 points allotted to attendance / participation.
2. Students are expected to keep up with the reading assignments as listed on the syllabus.
3. Students are expected to turn in written homework assignments when due. Late work may NOT be accepted, and will be assessed a penalty of 1 point per day late when it is accepted.
4. Over the course of the semester, students are expected to find five newspaper/ magazine /internet articles dealing with an environmental issue. (Note—each issue must deal with a different issue. Each article will be submitted also with the student's work, which will: a. summarize the article b. identify the economic cause of the environmental problem; and c. analyze the solution presented in the article for its economic merit ; or present a proposed solution and explain its economic merit over the course of the semester. Please note that ALL written assignments must meet the standards presented in EN 1001 and 102 courses. Grammar, spelling and punctuation DO count! Be sure to include the title, author, source, and date of the article in your report.
5. Students are expected to take quizzes and exams as scheduled. NO make-ups will be given for the mid-term unless the student has notified the instructor BEFORE the test is administered that he/she will be unable to take the exam with the class. There will be no make-ups for quizzes. The lowest quiz grade - will be dropped.

**GRADING POLICY:**

Course grades will be based on the following:

Midterm	100 points	A: 540-600 points
First project	50 points	B: 480-539 <b>points</b>
Second Project	100 points	C: 420-479 <b>points</b>
Homework	100 points	D: 360-419 points
Article analyses	100 points	F: <b>below</b> 360 Points
Attendance/participation	50 points	
FINAL EXAM	100 points	
TOTAL		600 points

## Environmental Economics Proposed Course Outline Fall 2001

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>written</u>
Aug 28	Introduction: Economics as study of scarcity; positive vs normative economics	"Plover" article for next class	
Aug 30	Dealing with <b>Scarcity</b> : Opportunity Cost, Production Possibilities	as <b>assigned</b>	homework 1
Sept 4	Markets: Supply and <b>Demand</b>	as assigned	homework 2
Sept 6	Markets: <b>Competition</b>	text, ch I to p. 9	homework 3
Sept 11	Markets: <b>Monopoly</b>	text, ch 1 to p.13	<b>homework 4</b>
Sept 13	Market Failure: Externalities,	text ch. I to end	
Sept 18	Market <b>Failure</b> : Public Goods		
Sept 20	Market and Government Failure	as assigned	<b>homework 5</b>
Sept 25	Measuring <b>Social Welfare</b>	as assigned	
Sept 27	<b>Marginal Cost/Benefit Analysis</b>	chap 3 to p. 45	homework 6
Oct 2	" " continued	chap 3 to end	
Oct 4	<b>Discussion/Review/</b> Choose "Positive Economics" Project topics		
Oct 9	Work on :positive <b>Economics</b> " Project topics		
Oct 11	Present "Positive <b>Economics</b> " Projects		

Oct 16 **Mid-term Exam**

Oct 18 **Cost-benefit Analysis and Discounting**

chap 4 to p. 62

homework 7

Oct 23 " " " " " "continued

Oct 25 Equitable Solutions: different approaches

chap 5

homework 8

Oct 30 " " " " " "continued

Nov 1 searing **Simulation** (reparation

Nov 6 Hearing Simulati on

homework 9

Nov 8 Using **Renewable Resources** Wisely

chap 6 to p 98

Nov 13 Using **Non-renewable Resources** Wisely

chap 6 to end

Nov 15 Kruger Nationa l Park

chap 16

Nov 20 Kruger **National Park** continued: choose Normative Economics Projects

homework 10

Nov 27 **Economics of Energy**

chap 8

Nov 29 "Normative" Economic *Project* Presentations

Dec 4 " " " " " "continued

Dec 6 Review and **Wrap-up**

**FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, Dec 11 12:45-2:45 pm**