

Course Syllabus
Econ 265: Topics in Economics
Buckman 212
Environmental and Resource Economics
Mike Hammock

Introduction:

This is a course in economic theory and policy. We will study the operation (and failure) of markets for resources and environmental goods, and the policies governments use to intervene in such markets. This course assumes a basic knowledge of microeconomics, and it would best if you were familiar with basic calculus (in particular, derivatives).

Contact Information:

Feel free to contact me via email whenever you like. I prefer to communicate via email (hammockm@rhodes.edu) rather than phone, but you may call me at 901-843-3123 if it is important. My office is Buckman 329C. Office Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, from 3:30 to 4:30, and by appointment. Please do not ask for permission to stop by during office hours; that's what they're for. Just stop by.

Reading Material:

The text for the course is Hartwick and Olewiler, *The Economics of Natural Resource Use*, Second Edition, published by Addison-Wesley Longman. Additional handouts may be distributed occasionally. If you're really enthusiastic, you might also buy *Environmental Economics* by Charles D. Kolstad, published by Oxford University Press. I will be using this book as a source in our section on pollution. I may also provide additional readings from articles and books. These will be emailed to you or handed out in class.

Honor Code:

I take the honor code very seriously. You will all abide by it. Every time you sign your name to your work you are reaffirming your commitment to the honor code. If you have questions about it, ask me. You are expected to behave in a manner such that your academic integrity is beyond question.

Attendance:

I do not believe in taking attendance; you are adults now, and I should not have to baby sit you. If you want to skip class, you may skip class. But there may be consequences for doing so. I will hold random pop quizzes; missing them will result in lost points. These are an incentive to attend class *and* to read the material for class. The quizzes may cover material in readings that we have not yet discussed in class.

If for some reason you miss an assignment, exam, or other credited work due to absence, your assignment grade will be knocked down to a maximum of 75% credit. After 24 hours the maximum will be 50% credit. After 48 hours you will get zero credit. If you wish to contest this reduction you must submit a signed explanation to me, which I alone will judge fit or unfit.

If you miss a class, you are responsible for asking your classmates for notes, assignments, syllabus and schedule changes, and so on. Do not ask me for a copy of my lecture notes, a summary of what we covered in class, or any other materials from classes missed.

Assignments:

You will have several assignments throughout the semester to give you practice with the concepts covered in class. These assignments are mandatory and will count toward your final grade. Extra credit will be available through the “Economics in the Movies” film series presented by myself and Professor Art Carden.

Exams:

You will have three exams, none of which is cumulative in the conventional sense. They are cumulative in the sense that you can't, say, forget what Marginal Benefit and Marginal Cost mean on your final exam, because you need that concept to understand more advanced concepts.

Accommodations:

If you need special accommodation (time-and-a-half, a separate room, etc.) please contact Disability Services and notify me at the beginning of the semester.

Grades:

Your grade in this course will be determined thusly:

Exam 1: 30%

Exam 3: 35%

Homework: 15%

Group Project: 20%

Grading Scale:

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|----|-------------|----|-------------|----|-------------|----|--------------|
| A | 93.00-100 | B | 83.00-86.99 | C | 73.00-76.99 | D | 63.00-66.99 |
| A- | 90.00-92.99 | B- | 80.00-82.99 | C- | 70.00-72.99 | D- | 60.00-62.99 |
| B+ | 87.00-89.99 | C+ | 77.00-79.99 | D+ | 67.00-69.99 | F | 59.99& below |

Course Outline:

Section 1: Review of Welfare Economics, Basic Calculus, and Environmental Economic Basics.

Week 1: 1-10-2007 to 1-19-2007

Review of the syllabus, review of calculus (specifically, derivatives and optimization). Begin review of Consumer Theory. Textbook Chapter 1.

Week 2: 1-22-2007 to 1-26-2007

More on Welfare Economics, and Economics through time: discounting and interest.

Introduction to Sustainability. Textbook Chapter 2.

Week 3: 1-20-2007 to 2-2-2007

Market Failure: Externalities. Textbook Chapter 6.

Week 4: 2-5-2007 to 2-9-2007

September 29: Policy Responses to Externalities and Cost Benefit Analysis: Textbook Chapter 7.

Week 5: 2-12-2007 to 2-16-2007

More on Cost Benefit Analysis and Pollution Policy.

Exam 1: 2-19-2007

Section 2: Land and Water Value, Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources

Week 6: 2-21-2007 to 2-23-2007

Exam review and Land and Water Resources, Textbook Chapter 3.

Week 7: 2-27-2007 to 3-2-2007

October 27: More on land and water valuation.

Week 8: 3-5-2007 to 3-9-2007

Nonrenewable Resources: Depletion in Competition. Textbook Chapter 8.

Spring Break: 3-10-2007 to 3-18-2007

Week 10: 3-19-2007 to 2-23-2007

More on Nonrenewable Resources

Week 11: 3-26-2007 to 2-30-2007

Nonrenewable Resources with Imperfect Competition and unknown stock size. Textbook Chapter 9.

Week 12: 4-2-2007 to 4-4-2007

Renewable Resources: Fisheries. Textbook Chapter 4.

Easter Break: 4-5-2007 to 4-8-2007

Week 13: 4-9-2007 to 4-13-2007

Regulation of Fisheries, Textbook Chapter 5. R

Week 14: 4-16-2007 to 4-20-2007

Renewable Resources: Forests. Textbook Chapter 10.

Week 15: 4-23-2007 to 4-27-2007

Presentations and review of course material.

Classes end: 4-27-2007

Final exam: 5-4-2007 1:00 P.M.